MY GIRL

正宗君を守ってくれる
お母さんが欲しい――…

マイガール

佐原ミズ

5

カバーデザイン　竹内亮輔

Pleasure Comics

BUNCH COMICS
マイガール
5

マイガール 5

佐原ミズ

新潮社

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これからもずっと、
キミはボクの下僕

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You

MIZU SAHARA

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You.

マイガール

The 34th Day: Koharu

SAHARA-MIZU

I'M GLAD TODAY IS A SUNDAY...
LET'S GO OUT...
MASAMUNE-KUN.
I WONDER IF IT'S REALLY A GOOD IDEA FOR ME TO ADD ANOTHER ROLE ONTO THAT.
EVEN THOUGH I'M STILL SO LACKING AS A WORKING MAN AND AS A PARENT.

RIP...
10
OCTOBER
M T W T F S
OH, PLEASE DO!
IT'S OCTOBER NOW, SO IS IT OKAY TO CHANGE THE CALENDAR?

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You

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WELL...
SINCE THEY WERE SELLING BAKED SWEET POTATOES AT THE SUPERMARKET IT MUST REALLY BE AUTUMN, HUH...
YEAH...
AH! A DRAGONFLY!
EH? WHERE?
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT!

DRAGON-FLIES, HUH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ALREADY OCTOBER...
It came so quickly...
OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF KOHARU!
OC...
OCTOBER IS YOUR MONTH, KOHARU-CHAN? WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
It's not your birthday month...
MASAMUNE-KUN, PLEASE LEND ME YOUR GLASSES
MY GLASSES?
OKAY, HERE
Thanks!
Haha! That's not it, Youko-san!
Koharu is, in terms of the lunar calendar, the month of October... and in terms of the seasons, is when it turns to winter.

OF ME!?
YOUKO-SAN DID?
AN IMPERSONATION OF YOU MAMA ONCE SHOWED ME
HA HA HA
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
I WAS MADE FUN OF BECAUSE OF THE NAME "KOHARU"...
IT WAS BACK WHEN WE WERE ABROAD AND I WAS GOING TO DAYCARE
EH?

(HEY, JAPANESE GIRL!)
(YOU'RE CALLED "KOHARU", AREN'T YOU!?)
(THAT'S A WEIRD NAME!)

KOHARUUU!
SORRY, SORRY!
I KNOW I'M LATE PICKING YOU UP!
WHUH?

I...
HATE THE NAME "KOHARU"!
CAUSE IT'S WEIRD!
WHY'D YOU NAME ME THAT?
HUH!?
WHY, ALL OF A SUDDEN?

.....
WHAT'S THAT?
KOHARU IS, IN TERMS OF THE LUNAR CALENDAR, THE MONTH OF OCTOBER...
AND IN TERMS OF THE SEASONS, IS WHEN IT TURNS TO WINTER.
HA HA HA!
THAT'S NOT IT, YOUKO-SAN!
AN IMPERSONATION OF MASAMUNE-KUN.
I'M PRETTY SURE IT WAS ON OUR WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL.
I WAS SAYING HOW THE WEATHER WAS STARTING TO TURN A LITTLE COLD...
YEAH.
"MASA-MOONE"-KUN?
Come here!
Who's that ?

IT'S STARTED GETTING COLDER...
AWW...
I JUST HATE WINTER!
YOU DO?
CAUSE WHEN IT GETS COLD OUTSIDE,
I CAN'T HELP BUT WANNA LAZE AROUND AT HOME.
UH-HUH...
AND THEN BEFORE I KNOW IT, I'VE GOTTEN FAT! NOTHING GOOD COMES OF IT.
I LIKE SPRING WAY BETTER. AND THERE'RE LADYBUGS!
BUT WHEN IT GETS TO BE REALLY SPRING, I GET SLEEPY, SO I THINK JUST A LITTLE BIT OF SPRING IS NICE.
I LIKE KOHARU.
OH! IT'S THAT! YOU KNOW... "KOHARU"
T/N: THE KANJI FOR KOHARU ARE "LITTLE" AND "SPRING".
KOHARU?

P
THE PERIOD RIGHT NOW IS WHAT YOU'D CALL KOHAKU.
HA HA HA!
THAT'S NOT IT, YOUKO-SAN!
KOHAKU IS, IN TERMS OF THE LUNAR CALENDAR, THE MONTH OF OCTOBER...
AND IN TERMS OF THE SEASONS, IS WHEN IT TURNS TO WINTER.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
NO.
I DID NOT KNOW.
Don't act like you know it all!
Squeeze
OW-OW-OW-OW!
WELL, IT'S JUST... I ACTUALLY PREFER THIS SEASON MYSELF...
EH?

A LITTLE BIT COLD, A LITTLE BIT WARM... DON'T YOU THINK IT'S THE BEST?
.....
IT'S A VERY WONDERFUL NAME,
SO DON'T HATE IT, OKAY...?
BECAUSE YOU TOLD HER ABOUT SUCH A WONDERFUL NAME,
SHE GAVE ME THE NAME KOHARU!
Now I love my name!

YOUKO-SAN...
REMEM-BERED THAT...
KOHARU-CHAN, TIME FOR YOUR BATH!
OH!
BEEP BEEP
The bath is heated.
Okay
I'LL SET OUT SOME PAJAMAS FOR YOU, SO GO AHEAD AND GET IN.
OKAY!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUKO-SAN REMEMBERED
THAT TALK WE HAD SO LONG AGO ABOUT KOHARU
N... NO, YOU CAN'T!
DIDN'T YOU DECIDED TO FACE FORWARD!?
YOU HAVE TO LET GO!!
TH... THAT'S RIGHT!
SINCE IT'S COME TO THIS, I'LL REPORT TO MOM AND SHE'LL MOTIVATE ME TO MOVE ON!
beep
RRRING...

I'm good, is mom around?
Huh? Dad?
SHE'S OUT HAVING A MEAL WITH AN OLD FRIEND
OOH, MASAMUNE! HOW'RE YOU?
HELLO, KAZAMA RESIDENCE
WH... WHAT TIMING..
Did something happen?
N... NO, IT'S NO BIG DEAL, BUT
WELL...
I STARTED, UMM, HOW TO SAY
GOING OUT WITH A WOMAN FROM WORK
I SEE
Y... YEAH
IN THAT CASE
DON'T RELY ON OTHER PEOPLE

EH...
.....
Oh... no... i mean...
THIS IS YOU, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. YOU THOUGHT IF YOU CALLED TO REPORT TO YOUR MOTHER, THAT SHE'D DESTROY ANY PATH FOR YOU TO RUN AWAY FROM THE SITUATION, RIGHT?
YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN A WHOLE TON OF THINGS YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT, BUT...
YOU CAN'T JUST LET YOURSELF BE PUSHED INTO IT BY WHAT EVERYONE ELSE SAYS, THIS IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO CONFIDENTLY DECIDE FOR YOURSELF. OTHERWISE YOU'RE BEING INCONSIDERATE TO THAT WOMAN.
BETWEEN US, AND TSUKAMOTO-SAN, AND OF COURSE KOHARU...
?
the one i would save is your mother...
Because if we were at the beach, and you and your both were both being attacked by a shark,

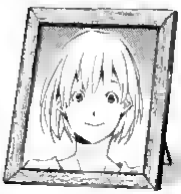
FOR A MAN, MARRIAGE MEANS...
YOU'VE GOTTA SHOW OFF TO THAT EXTENT...
WELL, PARENTS ARE PEOPLE TOO WE'RE NOT OMNIPOTENT AT A TIME LIKE THIS, I WANNA TELL YOU NOT TO FORCE YOURSELF, BUT...
WE'RE GONNA PASS AWAY BEFORE YOU DO. IT'S A DIFFERENT MATTER IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE WHO'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU AFTER WE LEAVE YOU BEHIND
Please give it a lot of consideration.

HAAH...
WHO'S THIS MASAMUNE-KUN PERSON THAT TOLD YOU ABOUT THE NAME KOHARU?
IS HE MY PAPA?

MAMA I HAFTA PEE...
NOW GO TO BED, KOHARU.
NO. HE'S A DEAR FRIEND OF MAMA'S.

...KUN.
MAMA, IS THIS...
...MUNE-KUN...
MASAMUNE-KUN..

.....
MAMA
NO, STOP!
I DECIDED I WANT HIM TO FIND A NEW MAMA
HAAH

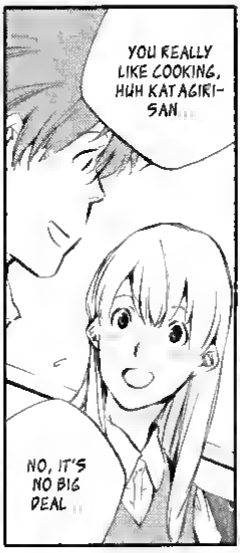


The 34th Day:FIN

The 35th Day: Occasionally Overreaching...

WELL THEN, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
GOODBYE, MASAMUNE-KUN!

K... KAZAMA-SAN...
OH! KATAGIRI-SAN...
WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF WE ATE LUNCH TOGETHER?
I... ACTUALLY UMM...
MADE A LUNCHBOX FOR YOU, IF YOU'D LIKE IT...



OH...
SHE WAS ALWAYS REALLY BAD AT THIS SORT OF STUFF...
AND YOUKO-SAN... I MEAN MY PREVIOUS GIRLFRIEND, WAS A PRETTY EASY-GOING PERSON...
MY MOM WAS ALWAYS WORKING SO SHE DIDN'T COOK MUCH EITHER,

..BUT OF COURSE SHE DOESN'T WANT HEAR ABOUT THE PAST..

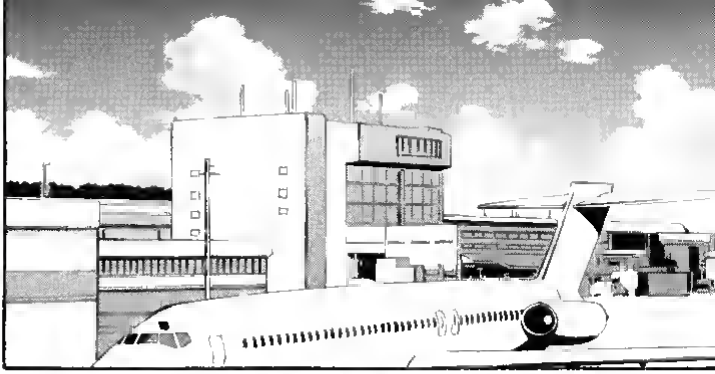
OH... NO, I...
I'M NOT GOING ON THE TRIP...
I KNOW IT'S THE OFF-SEASON, BUT IT'S STILL OKINAWA!
KAZAMA-SAN, WON'T YOU COME WITH ME?
IT MIGHT BE COLD, BUT I DEFINITELY WANT TO GO SCUBA DIVING!
SO I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO IT ALL YEAR...
I MEAN, LAST YEAR BECAUSE OF THE WEAK ECONOMY WE WEREN'T ABLE TO HAVE ONE,
EH...
GEEZ, AND HERE I AM THOUGHTLESSLY GETTING ALL WORKED UP ABOUT IT...
I'M SORRY...
Gasp
OH...
R... RIGHT, OF COURSE
BECAUSE OF KOHARU-CHAN...

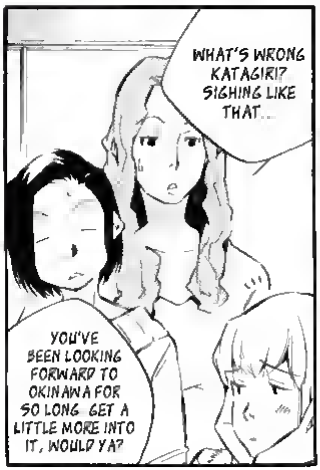
...HOW TO SAY IT...
OH... NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
I HOPE YOU HAVE A LOT OF FUN!
...IT'S LIKE I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO TO GET CLOSER WITH HER
GEEZ
KATAGIRI! WAKE UP ALREADY!
I GOTTA USE THE TOILET!
KAZAMA! KAZAMA! TAKE THIS TO THE COMPANY, QUICKLY!!
My stomach hurts
HUH?

I WOKE UP AT FOUR THIS MORNING TO MAKE LUNCH.
YAWN...
YOU'RE SCREWING UP EVEN MORE THAN USUAL.
SO... WHAT? ARE YOU TRYING TO SAVE MONEY?
You want me to find some cheap places for lunch?
IT'S NOT THAT
NO, ACTUALLY, NOT REALLY...
LUNCH!?
YOU LIKE TO COOK?
YOU MESSED UP THESE COPIES
DON'T SLEEP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
Don't blame me if somebody sees you!
OH... I'M SORRY, I'LL REDO THEM.

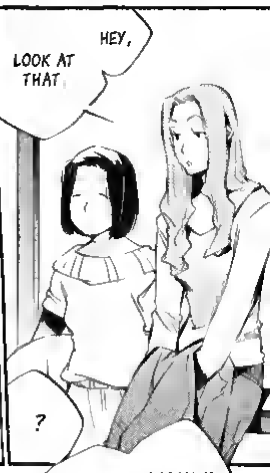
Are you sure? Thanks!
I have plenty of spare time so it's no big deal!

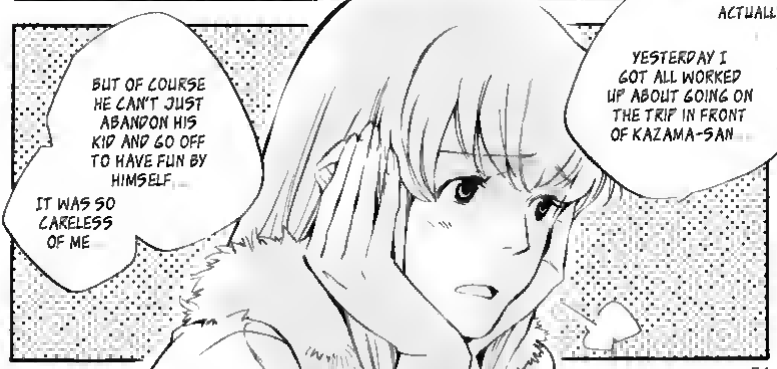
HERE YOU GO, MASAMUNE-KUN
OH, THANK YOU
EVERYONE'LL BE OUT TOMORROW SO I CAN LEAVE EARLY
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, SO I THOUGHT WE COULD EAT OUT BEFORE GOING HOME
WE CAN EAT A WHOLE BUNCH OF CAKE, TOO!
REALLY!?
I'M SO EXCITED!
Hehe
YEAH
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
TOMORROW I'LL COME PICK YOU UP AT SCHOOL, SO YOU DON'T NEED TO GO TO DAYCARE
HUH... WHAT ABOUT WORK?

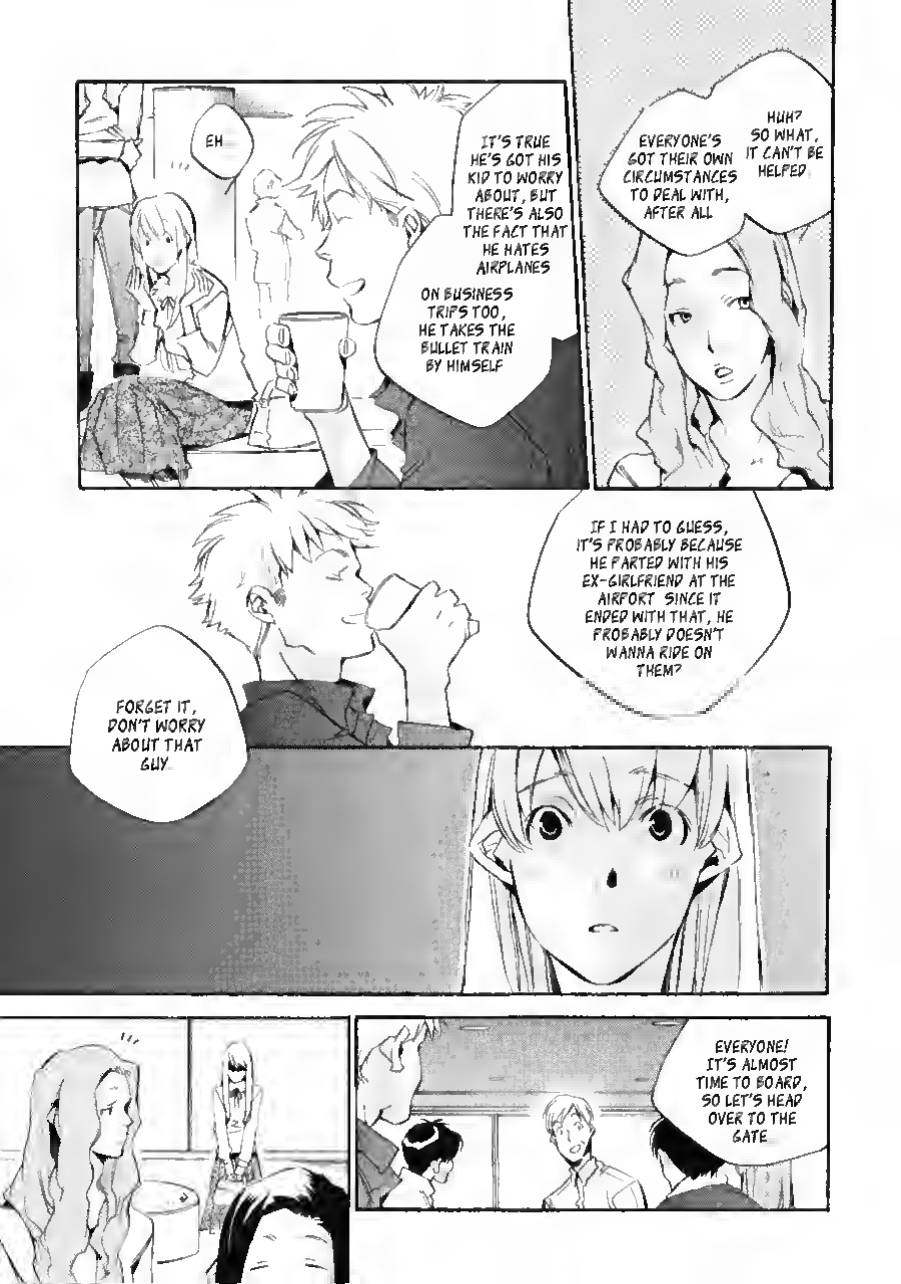



WHAT'S WRONG KATAGIRI? SIGHING LIKE THAT...
YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO OKINAWA FOR SO LONG. GET A LITTLE MORE INTO IT, WOULD YA?

TALK ABOUT DEPRESS-ING...
sigh...


HEY, LOOK AT THAT.
?

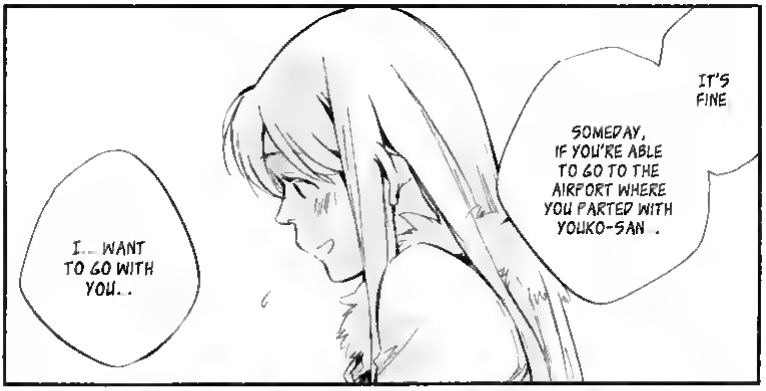

ACTUALLY YESTERDAY I GOT ALL WORKED UP ABOUT GOING ON THE TRIP IN FRONT OF KAZAMA-SAN...
BUT OF COURSE HE CAN'T JUST ABANDON HIS KID AND GO OFF TO HAVE FUN BY HIMSELF...
IT WAS SO CARELESS OF ME...

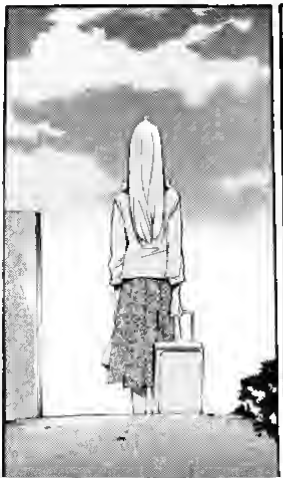

EH
IT'S TRUE HE'S GOT HIS KID TO WORRY ABOUT, BUT THERE'S ALSO THE FACT THAT HE HATES AIRPLANES
ON BUSINESS TRIPS TOO, HE TAKES THE BULLET TRAIN BY HIMSELF
HUH? SO WHAT, IT CAN'T BE HELPED
EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR OWN CIRCUMSTANCES TO DEAL WITH, AFTER ALL
IF I HAD TO GUESS, IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE HE FARTED WITH HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND AT THE AIRPORT SINCE IT ENDED WITH THAT, HE PROBABLY DOESN'T WANNA RIDE ON THEM?
FORGET IT, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT GUY
EVERYONE! IT'S ALMOST TIME TO BOARD, SO LET'S HEAD OVER TO THE GATE

KATAGIRI?
COME ON, WE'RE GOING
LOOK, MASAMUNE-KUN!
LOOK HOW FAR MY STOMACH'S STICKING OUT!
YEAH!
Haha...
BECAUSE YOU ATE TWO WHOLE PIECES OF CAKE!

AH!
GOOD EVENING! WELCOME HOME...
EH!?
KATAGIRI-SAN!?
WHA... WHAT? WASN'T TODAY THE START OF THE TRIP...
UH
UMM... ABOUT THAT...
UH...
OH... THANK YOU...
SO I STOPPED BY TO BRING YOU SOME
I WAS FRUSTRATED AND ENDED UP BUYING OKINAWAN SOUVENIRS IN THE AIPORT
Here you go
I GOT THERE LATE, SO I WAS LEFT BEHIND...
THAT'S WHY...

MASAMUNE-KUN, WHO'S SHE?
OH...
THIS IS KATAGIRI-SAN, AND SHE'S...
H... HOW SHOULD I PUT IT... SHE'S...
I'M YOUR FATHER'S JUNIOR AT WORK, SO HE'S ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER ME
WE'VE ACTUALLY MET ONCE BEFORE, BUT YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER
THEN I'LL BE GOING...
I'LL BE COMING IN TO WORK TOMORROW TOO, SO I'LL YOU THEN.
HUH...
YOU MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO GET A FLANE TICKET, THOUGH
YOU WERE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, SO YOU SHOULD GO!


I... WANT TO GO WITH YOU..
SOMEDAY, IF YOU'RE ABLE TO GO TO THE AIRPORT WHERE YOU PARTED WITH YOUKO-SAN .
IT'S FINE



EH...?

KATAGIRI-SAN.
YOU KNOW WHAT, KOHARU-CHAN?
HER NAME IS KATAGIRI-SAN, AND SHE'S THE FERSON I'M GOING OUT WITH NOW
GOING OUT WITH?
YEAH
IN THE FUTURE..
IF YOU AND I BECOME REALLY IMPORTANT TO HER..
AND IF SHE BECOMES REALLY IMPORTANT TO BOTH OF US..
I THINK IT'D BE NICE TO BECOME A FAMILY...

UMM... IT'S TRUE THAT I HATE AIRPLANES, BUT...
THAT'S BECAUSE I RODE ON ONE WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND IT ENCOUNTERED SOME REALLY BAD TURBULENCE I HAVEN'T FELT MUCH LIKE FLYING SINCE THEN...
OH...
WAS THAT IT...

W... WELL THEN. UMM...
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW AT WORK...

Y... YES!
TOMORROW AT WORK...

IT FELT KIND OF NOSTALGIC...
SHE'S A LOT LIKE HOW I USED TO BE.
FEELING POINTLESSLY JEALOUS AND INSECURE... WANTING TO LOOK GOOD. COUNTLESS TIMES SHOWING FALSE COURAGE AND OVERREACHING MYSELF...
BUT...
EVEN WITH ALL OF THAT, THE FEELINGS WEREN'T A LIE...
...

NOD
NOD
.....
UMM, I MADE LUNCH AGAIN, PLEASE HELP YOURSELF

HUH?
HEY, KATAGIRI-SAN?
I SOMETIMES MAKE THEM MYSELF, SO I UNDERSTAND...
I'M REALLY GRATEFUL FOR THE LUNCHES YOU'VE BEEN MAKING, BUT IT'S A LOT OF WORK, ISN'T IT...?
YOU'RE WELCOME!
THANK YOU.
BECAUSE I ENJOY IT...
IT'S JUST SOMETHING I DECIDED TO DO,
NOT AT ALL!
N... N-N-N-NO,
EH...
AND YOU AND KOHARU-CHAN AND I COULD MAKE DINNER TOGETHER?
THEN I WAS THINKING IT'D BE EASIER ON YOU IF A DAY WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS, WE COULD PICK UP SOME INGREDIENTS,

I'm sorry for all the trouble...
TH... THAT'D BE GREAT...
I... I DON'T WANT YOU TO LOSE OUT ON YOUR SLEEP...
I'M SURE IT'D BE MORE FUN IF WE COOKED AND ATE TOGETHER...
AND TRUTHFULLY I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER ABOUT IT...
Y-YEAH, I DID...
NO, WELL...
SO I GUESS... YOU ALREADY FIGURED OUT THAT I DON'T ACTUALLY LIKE COOKING THAT MUCH?
NO... I THINK EVERYONE'S THE SAME WAY...
Ha ha...
Fu fu... I WANTED TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION, BUT ENDED UP LOOKING PRETTY LAME...
FU FU...
HA HA...
HAHAHA...

The 35th Day:FIN

The 36th Day: Black Cats and Ladybugs (1)

TA-DAH! I HAVE A PRESENT FOR KOHARU!
A PAIR OF MITTENS AND CAT STRINGS! CUTE, AREN'T THEY?
HOW NICE OF YOU.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO, YOU KNOW...
DON'T WORRY, IT'S MY PLEASURE. BESIDES, THEY'RE NOT REALLY EXPENSIVE.
YOU SURE ARE LUCKY, KOHARU.
YOU CAN WEAR THOSE TO YOUR PRIVATE LESSONS TOMORROW.
Y... YES.
THANK YOU, MS. KATAGIRI.
YOU'RE VERY WELCOME.

WELL...
I'LL HELP YOU WITH THAT.
AH... THANK YOU.
WOULD YOU PLEASE SLICE THE RADISH?
AH, SURE.

!
YOU MADE A MISTAKE HERE. CAN YOU CORRECT IT BY TONIGHT?
HEY, KAZAMA!
?
?
DOM
I-I'M SORRY.
I'LL DO IT RIGHT NOW.
HEY, KAZAMA!

I WANT THEM TODAY!
Kss
ARE THE DOCUMENTS I REQUESTED LAST WEEK STILL NOT READY?
AH . I'M SORRY. THEY'LL BE PREPARED SOON.
F...
FINE.
!
HEY ...
HUH?
DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT EVERYONE IS SUDDENLY COLD TO YOU?
YOU'RE A BIT SLOW, SO I'LL SAY IT PLAINLY!
RIGHT NOW, THE WHOLE STAFF ARE MUCH MORE JEALOUS AND HATEFUL THAN YOU CAN EVER IMAGINE!

WHAT?
AREN'T YOU'RE DATING MS. KATAGIRI?
...
...
!?
HI HI
WELL, IF YOU LOOK AT ALL THE SINGLE WOMEN IN THIS OFFICE...
THAT KIND OF RUMOR SPREADS QUICKLY. THAT'LL TEACH YOU!
YOU HAVE THESE ONES... MS. KATAGIRI
AND FOR HER NO NEED TO SAY ANYTHING
NATURALLY, EVERY GLANCE WOULD BE TURNED TOWARD MS. KATAGIRI.
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW MUCH A CUP OF DISGUSTING TEA
CAN SAVE A SINGLE, MATURE MAN FROM HIS SAD EVERYDAY LIFE.
Here, have some tea
Thank you

Here, have some tea
Thank you
THESE MEN HAD THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM THAT PERHAPS SOMEDAY---
SO THEY LIVED ON, MOTIVATED BY THIS SWEET HOPE.
...YEP.

IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER IF IT WERE SOMEONE HANDSOME WHO HAD STOLEN HER FROM THEM.
INSTEAD, IT'S SOME RANDOM GUY WITH A KID SO, THEIR HOSTILITY TOWARD YOU IS COMPLETELY NORMAL!
THAT'S WHY!!

THEY'LL NEVER EVER LET YOU LEAVE ON TIME AGAIN!
HA HA
UP UNTIL NOW, EVERYONE WAS LOOKING OUT FOR YOU SINCE YOU WERE "THE POOR MAN WITH A KID, WHOSE LIFE WAS OVER"...
BUT TODAY, YOU'RE JUST A TRAITOR WHO THREW THEIR SYMPATHY OUT THE WINDOW.

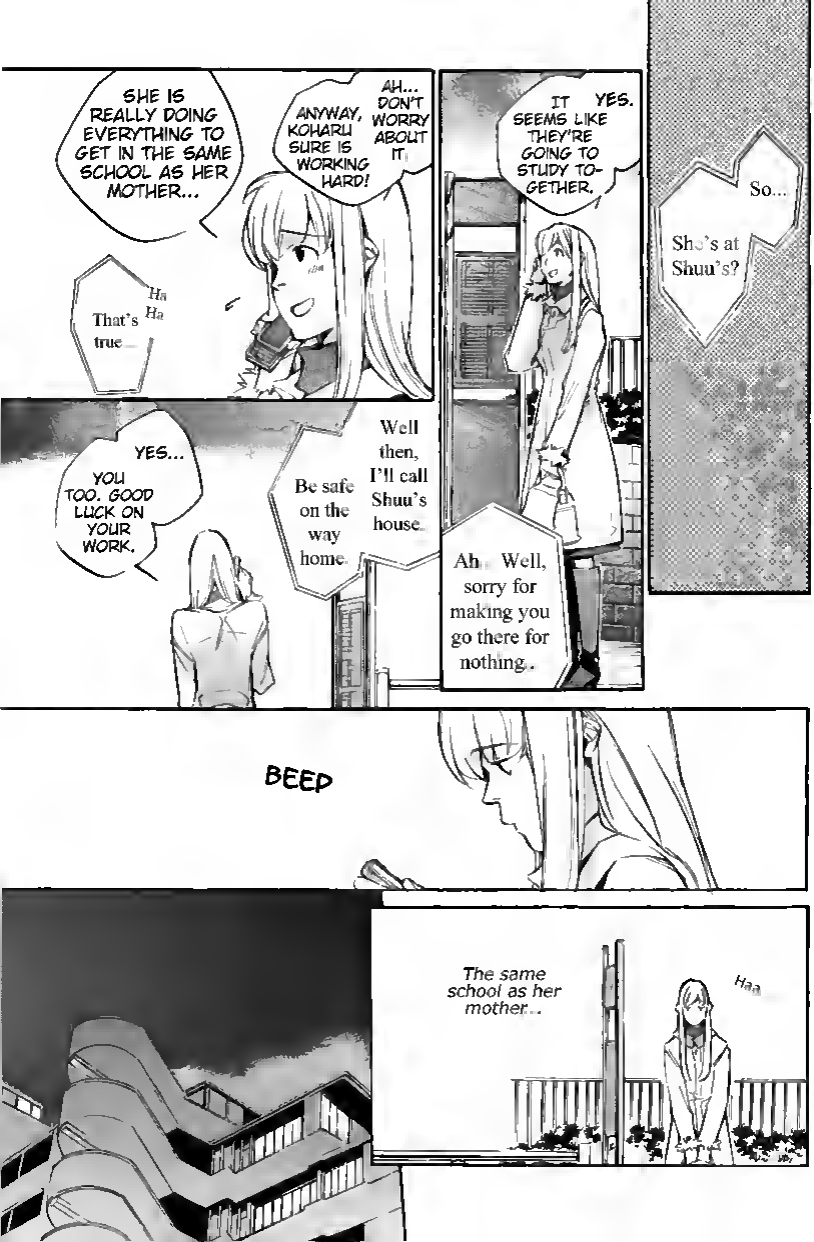
YOU ONLY WEAR CATS RECENTLY.
HAVE YOU FINALLY GOTTEN TIRED OF LADYBUGS?
THAT'S NOT IT...
MISS KATA-GIRI...
KOHARU!

I'LL ASK MY MOTHER TO FETCH KOHARU, SO DON'T WORRY
I'M NOT EVEN CLOSE TO FINISHING MY WORK LOAD, SO I'LL HAVE TO CANCEL TONIGHT'S DINNER.
WELL ...
YES...
ERR. WHERE'S MASA-MUNE?
ARE YOUR LESSONS OVER?
WELL THEN, SHALL WE GET GOING?
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE ANY-THING PLANNED, SO I THOUGHT WE COULD PERHAPS WAIT FOR HIM TOGETHER.
ACTU...
R..
REALLY?
ACTUALLY, TODAY...
SHUU PROMISED THAT HE WOULD HELP ME WITH SOCIOLOGY!

AH... IS THAT SO?
NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
IN THAT CASE, I'LL JUST INFORM MR KAZAMA. WORK HARD!
EH?
AH...
I...
I'M SORRY... I FORGOT TO TELL MASAMUNE ...
YOU... YOU EVEN CAME TO PICK ME UP...
Y... YES...
THANK YOU...
THE PERSON WHOM MASAMUNE IS CURRENTLY SEEING...
WHO WAS THAT LADY?

WHAAT?!
ARE WE TRULY TALKING ABOUT MASAMUNE? IS THAT A JOKE?
HE, WHO ANNOYS THE HELL OUT OF EVERYONE WITH HIS YOKO?
YOU TOLD HIM YOU WERE AGAINST IT, DIDN'T YOU?
WELL...
ACTUALLY, IT WAS I WHO ASKED HIM TO LOOK FOR A NEW MOMMY.
!
PLAYING AS THE NICE GUY AND PREACHING TO EVERYONE...
I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU!
BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO YOU, YOU JUST FORGET!
BYE!
IN THE END...
YOU'RE JUST LIKE THE REST!
EH?

IF ONLY I WERE OLDER, I WOULD NEVER HAVE SAID THAT...
HUH?
WHEN MASAMUNE COLLAPSED WHILE TAKING OUT THE WEEDS, I COULD NOT DO ANYTHING.
I DON'T WANT HIM TO GO TO HEAVEN LIKE MOM AND NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN...
SO HE DEFINITELY NEEDS AN ADULT...
WHO WOULD MARRY HIM AND HELP HIM...
DEFINITELY...


SHE IS REALLY DOING EVERYTHING TO GET IN THE SAME SCHOOL AS HER MOTHER...
ANYWAY, KOHARU SURE IS WORKING HARD!
AH... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
That's true...
Ha Ha
IT YES. SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO STUDY TO-GETHER.
So... She's at Shuu's?
YES... YOU TOO. GOOD LUCK ON YOUR WORK.
Be safe on the way home.
Well then, I'll call Shuu's house.
Ah... Well, sorry for making you go there for nothing.
BEEP
The same school as her mother...
Haa

NO... NOTHING.
WHERE'S MR. KAZAMA'S DAUGHTER?
WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU SURE ARE EARLY TODAY.
I...
I'M HOME!
GOOD EVENING!
Sorry for intruding!
AH, GOOD EVENING..
WHAT?! A CAKE?! THAT'S SO NOT LIKE YOU.
AHEM
SHUU
I BOUGHT A CAKE... YOU SHOULD SHARE IT.
YOU CAN SLEEP HERE TONIGHT, KOHARU.
AH, BY THE WAY,
EH ...?
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO ACT LIKE A GOOD DAD TO HIDE THE REASON MOM LEFT YOU, IT'S USELESS!
TSS

MR. KAZAMA CALLED ME TO SAY THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY COME HOME LATE.
SO, SINCE TOMORROW'S A BANK HOLIDAY ANYWAY, I TOLD HIM I WOULD FEEL REASSURED IF YOU SLEEP HERE FOR THE NIGHT.
R... REALLY...
MY APOLOGIES...
WELL, SINCE WE'RE DONE STUDYING, LET'S PLAY!
PLAY?
!
OUT... OUT OF THE QUESTION!
NO GAMES IN THE EVENING...
HUH
WHAT? BUT YOU USUALLY DON'T CARE!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST PLAY WITH US?
I HEARD THAT IF YOU DON'T GET ALONG WELL WITH YOUR CHILD,
THE FAMILY IS DOOMED!
EH?
RIGHT?
Y-YES.
.....

!!!
WE'RE NOT TOO BAD, ARE WE?
OK!
I'LL GET CHANGED. WAIT FOR ME...
TOO EASY
YES.
HAHA!
MY FATHER IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN'T GET PAST THIS LEVEL.
JUST YOU WAIT!!

.....
HA HA ...
PFFT...
EH?
SO, HOW IS SHE?
AH... SHE'S VERY NICE.
WHOM MASAMUNE IS SEEING.
THAT WOMAN
MITTENS OR SOCKS WITH CATS.
SHE GIVES ME A LOT OF THINGS.

HOW-EVER..
WHENEVER I SEE HER SMILING WITH MASAMUNE...
WELL, I WOULD THINK THAT MOM WOULD HAVE LIKED TO TALK WITH HIM LIKE THAT AS WELL...
AND THAT MAKES ME SAD.
BUT I ALREADY KNOW
THAT SINCE SHE'S NOT HERE...
...SHE CAN'T MARRY HIM.
I KNOW THAT...

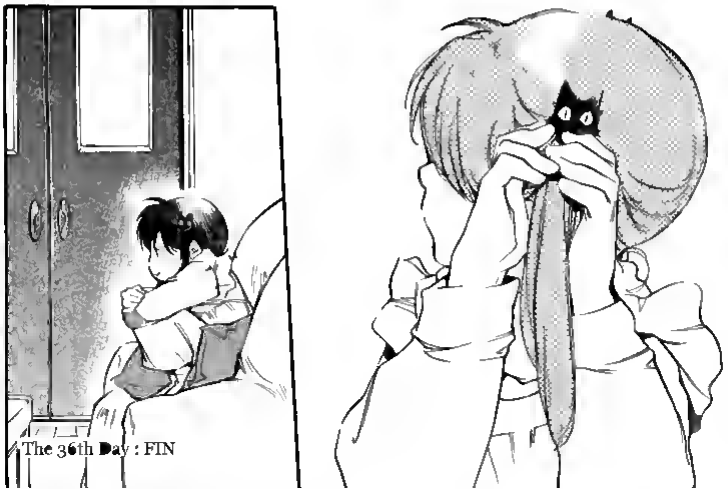
EH?
THEY CAN MAKE US HAPPY WITH GIFTS.
...THEY ALL THINK
.....
MY MOM'S NEW HUSBAND WAS LIKE THAT, TOO.
HE USED TO GIVE ME LOTS OF GIFTS.
BUT... I THREW AWAY EVERYTHING THAT HE GAVE ME.
I STOLE MONEY FROM HIS WALLET,
I BROKE HIS CAR'S WINDSHIELD,
I DID MEAN THINGS TO HIM EVERYDAY.
BUT...
WHATEVER I DID,
HE JUST SMILED.
SO, IN THE END, I GOT BORED AND STOPPED DOING THOSE THINGS.

SO IF YOU ALREADY THINK SHE'S NICE, THEN IT'LL BE AN EASY VICTORY FOR HER.
EVEN SOMEONE LIKE ME GAVE UP.
!
I'LL HELP YOU FOR 100 YEN PER ACT OF MISCHIEF.
HIHI
BUT IF EVER YOU WANT TO BE MEAN, JUST TELL ME!
!
THE PHONE'S RINGING.
HM.
HUH?
IT'S MASAMUNE! YOU DADDY'S GIRL!
.....
?
WHO COULD IT BE?
TAP

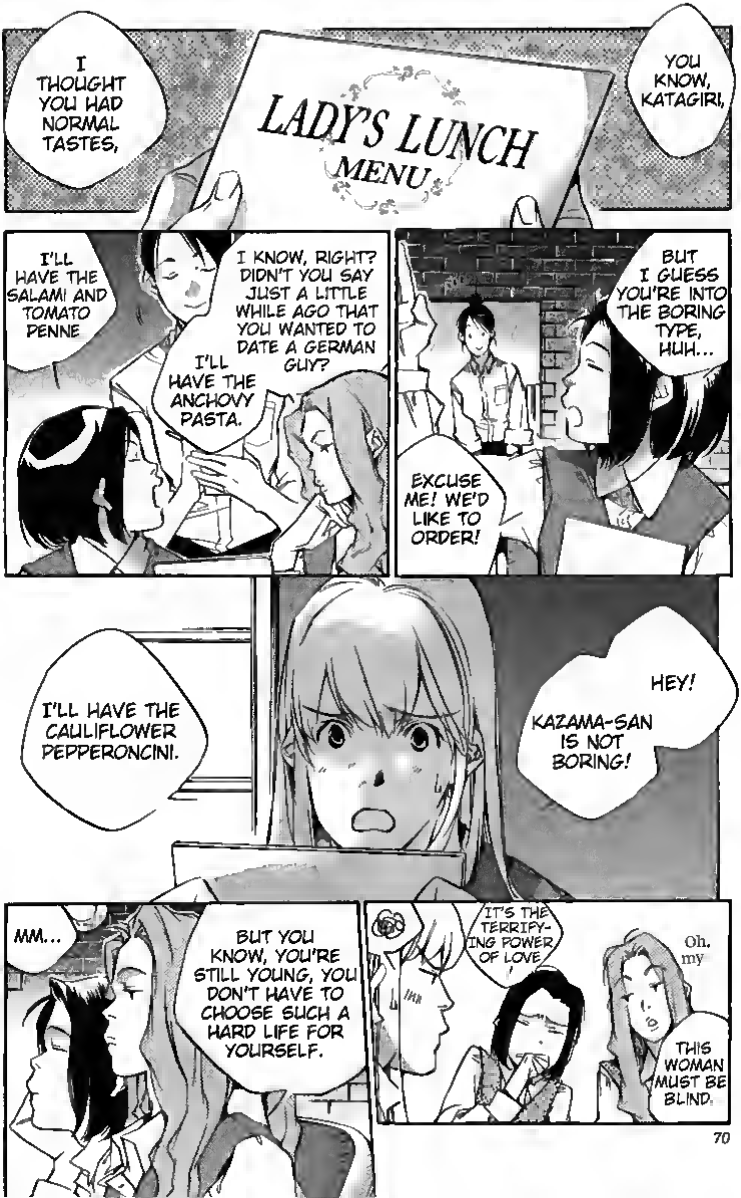
AH...
KOHARU?
M...
MASA-MUNE?
DID YOU DO WELL?
COULD SHUU HELP YOU WITH SOCIOL-OGY?
WELL...
SORRY FOR NOT COMING TO PICK YOU UP...
EH?
TO BE HONEST, I CALLED YOU BE-CAUSE I CAN'T BEAR IT ANY-MORE.
HEARING YOUR VOICE GIVES ME STRENGTH!
Just a little bit more! I'm almost there!
YOU MUST BE TIRED OF WORKING, MASA-MUNE.
Y... YES.
BUT WE'RE PLAYING NOW.

YES.
GOOD NIGHT.
I'LL COME GET YOU TOMOR-ROW JUST MORN-CALL ME ING. FOR ANY-THING.
GOOD NIGHT!

HEARING YOUR VOICE GIVES ME STRENGTH...



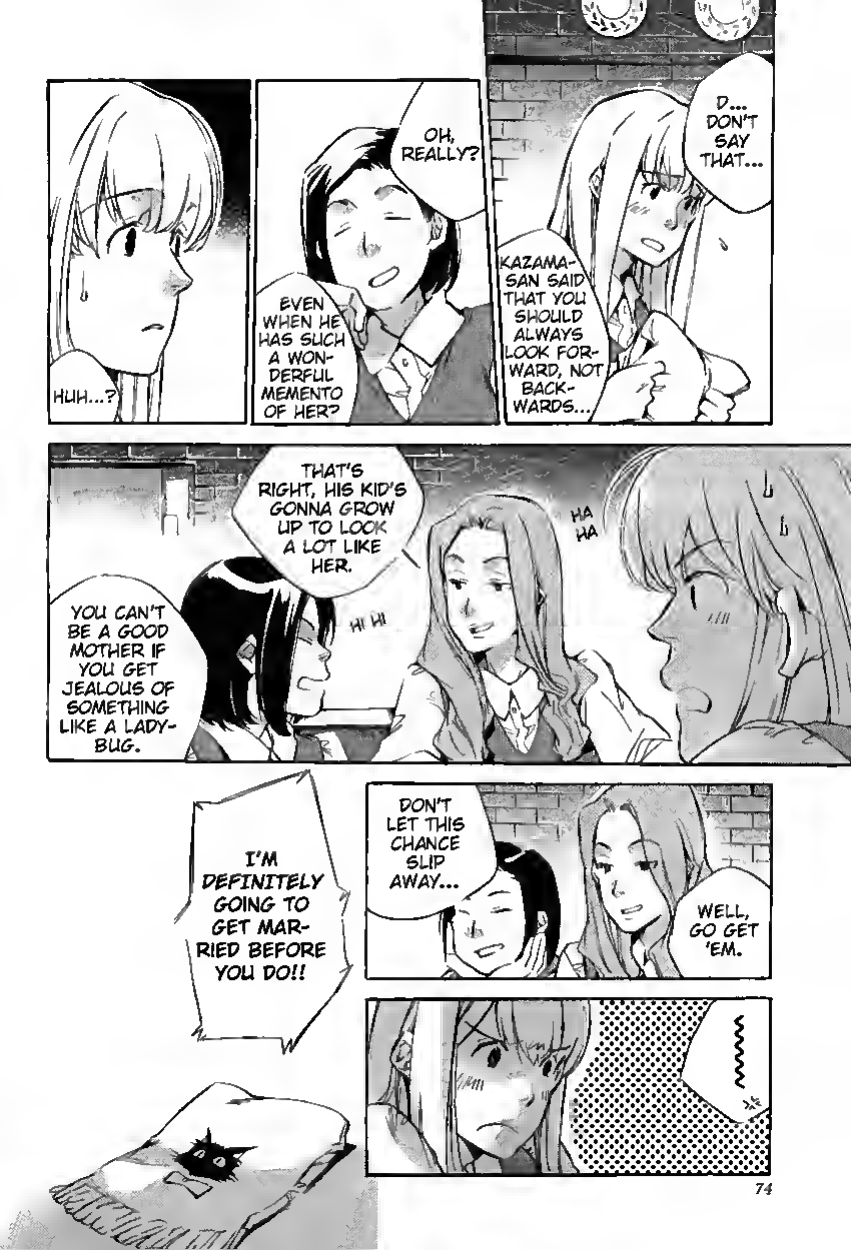
The 37th Day: Black Cats and Ladybugs 2


I THOUGHT YOU HAD NORMAL TASTES,
LADY'S LUNCH MENU
YOU KNOW, KATAGIRI,
I'LL HAVE THE SALAMI AND TOMATO PENNE
I KNOW, RIGHT? DIDN'T YOU SAY JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO THAT YOU WANTED TO DATE A GERMAN GUY?
I'LL HAVE THE ANCHOVY PASTA.
BUT I GUESS YOU'RE INTO THE BORING TYPE, HUH...
EXCUSE ME! WE'D LIKE TO ORDER!
I'LL HAVE THE CAULIFLOWER PEPPERONCINI.
HEY!
KAZAMA-SAN IS NOT BORING!
MM...
BUT YOU KNOW, YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE SUCH A HARD LIFE FOR YOURSELF.
IT'S THE TERRIFYING POWER OF LOVE.
Oh, my
THIS WOMAN MUST BE BLIND.

HEY, HEY, WHAT ABOUT HIS KID?
BUT YOU'RE JUST HELPING EACH OTHER OUT. IT'S LIKE YOU'RE JUST FRIENDS.
I... IT'S NOT A HARD LIFE! KAZAMA-SAN AND KOHARU-CHAN ARE BOTH VERY SWEET...
R... RIGHT?!
SHE'S A GOOD PRETTY GIRL. INDEPENDENT...
BUT SHE'S REALLY IMMATURE, SHE CRIES A LOT, AND SHE'S REALLY SPOILED.
MY NIECE IS TWO YEARS OLDER THAN HER,
I'm counting on you today.
WHEN I WENT FOR THE MARRIAGE INTERVIEW...
SHE GREETED ME REALLY POLITELY...
Nice to meet you. My name is Kazama Kaoru.
KAZAMA-KUN DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE TO TEACH HIS KID GOOD MANNERS.
I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL THANKS TO HER DEAD MOTHER'S STRICT DISCIPLINE OR SOMETHING, BUT THEN SHE SAID...
YEAH, HUH.
SHE'S ALREADY AT A POINT WHERE YOU CAN DEPEND ON HER. SHE'S LIKE AN ADULT.

Did you get in another fight?
You're so energetic!
I realized that I didn't behave.
No...
My mama always smiled and told me that I didn't have to do anything.
But...
People would say bad things about my mama.
It's because of the way she's raised
That's why...
I FELT REALLY BAD FOR HER, TO BE HONEST.
E... EVEN KIDS HAVE DIFFERENT SIDES DON'T BE SO DRAMATIC ...
A... AND TOMORROW, THE THREE OF US ARE GOING SKATING TOGETHER. WE ALL GET ALONG REALLY WELL.
I BOUGHT HER ANOTHER PRESENT, TOO ..
WHOA.
YOU'RE GONNA BE THE MOM OF A KID WHO DOESN'T EXPRESS HER TRUE SELF?

LOOK.
ISN'T IT CUTE?
A BLACK CAT?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT KID LIKED LADY-BUGS.
WHY AREN'T YOU BUYING HER WHAT SHE LIKES?
SH... SHE USED TO LIKE LADY-BUGS!
NOW, SHE LIKES BLACK CATS!!
!
EVEN IF YOU TRY TO MAKE THEM FORGET THE PAIN
THEY'RE NEVER GOING TO FORGET HER.
!


D... DON'T SAY THAT...
KAZAMA-SAN SAID THAT YOU SHOULD ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD, NOT BACKWARDS...
OH, REALLY?
EVEN WHEN HE HAS SUCH A WONDERFUL MEMENTO OF HER?
HUH...?
HA HA
THAT'S RIGHT, HIS KID'S GONNA GROW UP TO LOOK A LOT LIKE HER.
HI HI
YOU CAN'T BE A GOOD MOTHER IF YOU GET JEALOUS OF SOMETHING LIKE A LADYBUG.
DON'T LET THIS CHANCE SLIP AWAY...
WELL, GO GET 'EM.
I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO GET MARRIED BEFORE YOU DO!!

WHY ARE WE THE ONLY ONES WORKING ON OUR DAY OFF AGAIN?!
THERE ARE OTHER GUYS WITH A LOT MORE TIME ON THEIR HANDS!
YEAH, LIKE A GUY WHO TAKES THE DAY OFF TO PLAY WITH HIS KID AND SOME CHICK!
WHAT?!
HEY! WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE THEN?! IT IS OUR DAY OFF!
OH, REALLY?! FINE, THEN!
1
3 4 5 6 7
10 11 12 13 14
17 18 19 20 21
24 25 26 27 28
31
Skating
.....

I'M NOT VERY ATHLETIC...
BUT IT MIGHT BE GOOD THAT I'M NOT GOING SKATING ...
I'M REALLY SORRY.
I SEE... MORE WORK CAME IN, HUH...
AH, BUT KOHARU-CHAN'S FINE!
REALLY?
NO, IT'S ALRIGHT.
IT'S A BIG HELP...
SHE LOVES PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORTS, JUST LIKE HER MOTHER...
HUH... REALLY ...
.....
Just like her mother...

I... IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH KOHARU-CHAN,
I'D LIKE TO GO SKATING WITH HER, JUST THE TWO OF US!
U... UM, KAZAMA-SAN!
YES?
.....
WOW, THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE.
It is the weekend so.
YEAH...

GYA HA HA

EEK!
DASH

WOW, THAT'S SO DANGER-OUS...
BE CAREFUL, KOHARU-CHAN.

OH, WELL.
LET'S PRACTICE SKATING.
O...
OKAY.

I'M GOING TO TAKE ONE OF MY HANDS AWAY, OKAY?
THAT'S IT! YOU'RE GETTING THE HANG OF IT REALLY QUICK-LY, KOHARU-CHAN.

JUST LIKE THAT...
DON'T LOOK AT YOUR FEET, STARE STRAIGHT AHEAD.

OKAY, RIGHT,
NOW, LEFT!

YOU'RE SKATING!
Y-YEAH!
ARE YOU COLD? I'LL GO BUY US SOME HOT COCOA. WAIT RIGHT HERE!
OKAY!

WOW...
SHE MUST BE TAKING LESSONS SOMEWHERE.
YEAH.

HEY, GET OUTTA THE WAY!!
Chatter
Chatter
!
!!
Ow, Ow

K-
KOHARU-CHAN! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
OH!
YEAH ...
JEEZ, WHY WERE YOU SKATING SO SLOWLY?!
THAT HURT!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE GOING TOO FAST!
DIDN'T YOUR MOTHER TEACH YOU TO PLAY NICELY WITH EVERY-ONE?
GULP
YOU'RE NOT MY MOM!
SHUT UP, YOU OLD HAG!
TCH...
I'M THE ONE THAT SHOULD BE PISSED OFF
MPF
OW...

IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY!
DON'T APOLOGIZE.
O... ONLY A LITTLE.
YOU MIGHT HAVE TWISTED IT A LITTLE...
TCH
IT'S THAT GODDAMN BRAT'S FAULT!
I... I'M SORRY.
YOU TOLD ME TO WAIT THERE, BUT...
DOES IT HURT A LOT?
GRR
HE'S DEFINITELY GONNA GROW UP ROTTEN!
I'M ONLY 25!
CALLING ME AN OLD HAG, HOW RUDE!
GRR
YOU SHOULD BE ANGRY, TOO!
YOU KNOW WHAT, LET'S JUST GET ALONG WITH EVERYONE, KOHARU-CHAN.
U... UMM, UMMM,
THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS I'D LIKE TO SAY, BUT...
AH

OKAY!
I... I'M OKAY.
I'M HEAVY, AND I CAN WALK ON MY OWN...
IT'S ALRIGHT!
I CARRY A LOT OF HEAVY COPIES AROUND ALL DAY, SO, C'MON.
ALRIGHT, UP YOU GO.

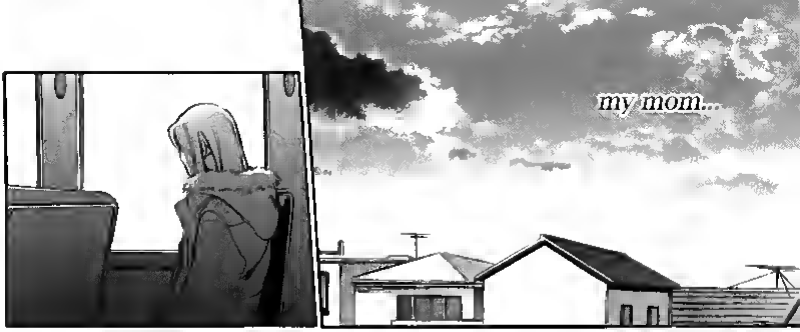
OH,
WOW!
YOU'RE REALLY LIGHT!
I'M REALLY LIGHT.
AH,
I'M LIGHT.

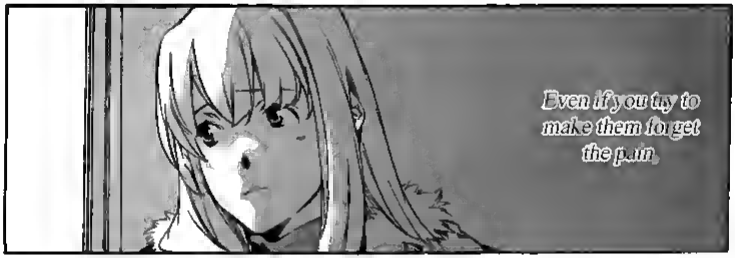
I HOPE I DO...
I WONDER IF I'LL GET TOO BIG TO BE CARRIED LIKE THIS ONE DAY...
AH, GOOD WORK!
!
KATAGIRI-SAN!
I TOLD YOU ON THE PHONE BEFORE, BUT...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT, I WASN'T WITH HER...
NO, IT'S ALRIGHT.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TODAY.

I THINK SHE HAD A LOT OF FUN.
OH, SHOOT! THIS IS KOHARU-CHAN'S...
!
Phew...

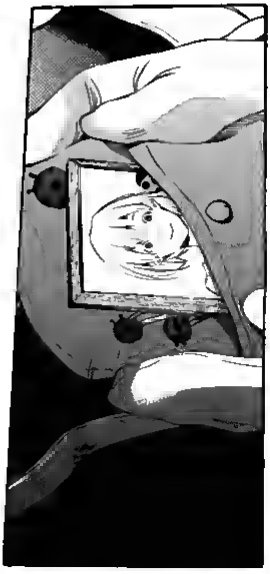
WHAT IF THERE'S MONEY OR A CELL PHONE IN THERE...?
I'M SORRY
I... IS IT OKAY TO GIVE IT BACK TOMORROW?
MASA-MUNE-KUN...
AH, YOU AWAKE?

Y... YEAH.
DID YOU HAVE FUN TODAY?
HUH? WHERE'S KATAGIRI-SAN?
SHE WENT HOME.
KA... KATAGIRI-SAN...
HUH?
GOOD!
SHE WAS KINDA LIKE...
She was kinda like
YOU'LL HAVE TO TELL ME ONE DAY.
HUH?
A.. ACTU-ALLY, NEVER MIND.





They're never going to forget...



The 37th Day : FIN

The 38th Day :
True Feelings and Feigned Strength

KOHARU-CHAN...
AH, SURE.
COULD YOU COME TASTE THIS FOR ME AGAIN?
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT CALORIES, SO I DIDN'T PUT A LOT OF CREAM IN IT...IT'S PROBABLY NOT VERY GOOD.
IT'S MISSING SOMETHING, RIGHT?
I DON'T THINK SO
YOUR STEW IS REALLY GOOD, KATAGIRI-SAN!
REALLY?

!
I'M JUST NOT A GOOD COOK.
THOUGH I SHOULD WAIT FOR MY PAY-CHECK BEFORE DOING ANY KIND OF CELEBRAT-ING.
DO YOU LIKE EATING OUT?
PHU
I LIKE COOKING, BUT I WISH WE'D GO OUT TO EAT SOME-TIMES..
HUH?!
AH!
A COCK-ROACH!
W.. WOW, KOHARU-CHAN.
WHERE DID YOU LEARN THAT?
PAF
EEEEK!!
OH GOD, WHAT DO WE DO, WHAT DO WE DO?!

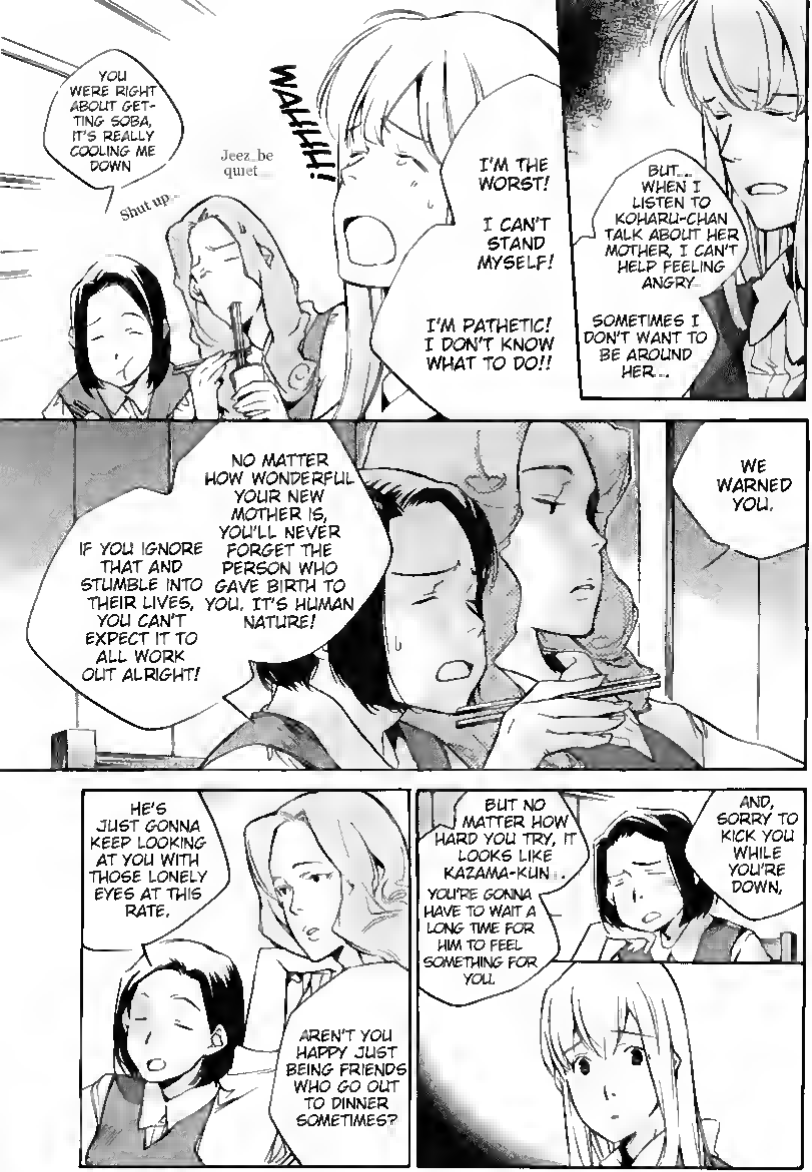
MY MOM USED TO DO THE SAME THING.
HUH...
"IF YOU SEE A COCKROACH, SQUISH IT RIGHT AWAY!!"
SHE TOLD ME,
THAT'S WHAT SHE TAUGHT ME.
REALLY!!!
R..
WELL, I THINK...
IT'S CUTER WHEN A GIRL CAN'T SQUISH IT ON HER OWN!
O OH, REALLY...
!!!

HOW ARE THINGS IN HERE? DID IT COME OUT ALRIGHT?
SORRY, I GOT CAUGHT UP TALKING WITH THE LANDLORD.
WELCOME HOME, MASAMUNE-KUN!
KATAGIRI-SAN DID A REALLY GOOD JOB!
REALLY?
RIGHT,
KATAGIRI-SAN?
HUH... Y-YEAH..
!

HAAAA
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU LOOK MORE TIRED THAN USUAL.
KATAGIRI, ARE YOU FREE? LET'S GO EAT LUNCH.
SNIF
I...
NEVER KNEW I WAS SUCH A HORRIBLE PERSON...
HUH?!
WHAT HAP-PENED?!
LET GO ALREADY!
OY
WAAHH!

OH, SURE.
I CAN DO THAT.
COULD YOU LOOK OVER THIS DOCUMENT FOR ME TODAY?
YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON, SO...
AH, KAZAMA-KUN, THERE YOU ARE!
.....
LIM— IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU WANT TO ASK ME?
WHAT WAS IT ABOUT KATAGIRI-SAN THAT MADE YOU FALL IN LOVE?
HEHE
LOVE...?!
NO NO NO NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT YET...
W... WE'RE JUST FRIENDS... IT'S NOT LIKE WHAT EVERY-ONE TH!...
.....

!
NO!
UM...
OH, REALLY...? I GUESS KATAGIRI'S STILL OUT OF LUCK, THEN...
I SEE, I SEE.
HEY, HEY, YOU WANNA GET SOME TONKATSU FOR LUNCH? WE HAVEN'T HAD IT IN A WHILE...
SOBA
I KNOW HOW GREAT HER MOTHER WAS...
IT'S HOT ENOUGH OUTSIDE!
NO WAY!


WAAHH!
Jeez, be quiet...
Shut up...
YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT GETTING SOBA, IT'S REALLY COOLING ME DOWN
I'M THE WORST!
I CAN'T STAND MYSELF!
I'M PATHETIC! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!!
BUT... WHEN I LISTEN TO KOHARU-CHAN TALK ABOUT HER MOTHER, I CAN'T HELP FEELING ANGRY...
SOMETIMES I DON'T WANT TO BE AROUND HER...
WE WARNED YOU.
NO MATTER HOW WONDERFUL YOUR NEW MOTHER IS, YOU'LL NEVER FORGET THE PERSON WHO GAVE BIRTH TO YOU. IT'S HUMAN NATURE!
IF YOU IGNORE THAT AND STUMBLE INTO THEIR LIVES, YOU CAN'T EXPECT IT TO ALL WORK OUT ALRIGHT!
AND, SORRY TO KICK YOU WHILE YOU'RE DOWN,
BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, IT LOOKS LIKE KAZAMA-KUN...
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO WAIT A LONG TIME FOR HIM TO FEEL SOMETHING FOR YOU.
HE'S JUST GONNA KEEP LOOKING AT YOU WITH THOSE LONELY EYES AT THIS RATE.
AREN'T YOU HAPPY JUST BEING FRIENDS WHO GO OUT TO DINNER SOMETIMES?

...
go out to eat sometimes
I wish we'd
EATING OUT IS RELAXING?
IT'S REALLY RELAXING TO EAT OUT, SO HE SAID TO GIVE IT TO MASAMUNE-SAN!
WOW! IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO HAVE THIS?
A COUPON FOR A FREE MEAL AT A WEDDING HALL!
BIG SIS AND I HAVE BEEN GOING A LOT, BUT SHIROU SAID WE CAN'T GO ANY-MORE SINCE IT'S EXPENSIVE.
YEAH!

HEY,
IS IT OKAY IF I INVITE SOMEONE ELSE TO COME WITH MASAMUNE-KUN AND ME?
IS YOUR BAG HEAVY? I CAN CARRY IT FOR YOU.
OH, THIS IS NOTHING.
REALLY? OKAY, THEN—
!!

YES?
U... UM, KAZAMA-SAN!
CAN WE HOLD HANDS?
HOLD HANDS?
AH- IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, THAT'S OKAY
I'M SORRY...
HOLD HANDS?
NO, UH..
UMM...
AH...

U...
UMM...
H...
HERE...
SST
SST
SST

Don't look back...
Don't look back...

KATAGIRI-SAN, WHAT'S WRONG?
?
I'M SORRY HERE, TAKE THIS AND ENJOY DINNER WITH KOHARU-CHAN TONIGHT!
I FORGOT THAT I HAD SOMETHING TO DO TODAY!
AH, SHOOT!
WHA?
HUH?

?
AH!
MASA-MUNE-KUN, WEL-COME HOME!
I'M HOME.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE ..?
Y... YEAH, WELL...
OH REALLY.. THAT'S TOO BAD...
HUH? WHERE'S KATAGIRI-SAN?
SHE SAID SHE'S BUSY TO-NIGHT.
TODAY, MY FRIEND KANNA-CHAN GAVE ME A COUPON FOR A FREE MEAL AT A WEDDING HALL!
I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE IF YOU DRESSED UP AS NICE AS SHIROU-KUN, THEN YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET MARRIED THERE!
I... I SEE, A MAR-RIAGE...
AH... BUT I HAVEN'T WORN THIS IN A WHILE, SO I'D HAVE TO GET IT CLEANED...
I THINK THIS WOULD LOOK BEST ON YOU! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SO...

THEN I'LL TAKE IT TO THE CLEANERS TOMORROW!
I HAVE TO TELL KATAGIRI-SAN ABOUT THE COUPON, TOO...
!
Start accepting Katagiri san...?
Just when did Koharu chan...
left me behind...
She's

I HAVE TO GO TO MASAMUNE-KUN'S WORK RIGHT NOW.
I NEED TO TELL SOMEONE ABOUT THE COUPON YOU GAVE ME
YOU WANNA GO PLAY IN THE PARK ON OUR WAY HOME?
KOHARU-CHAN!
YEAH!
LET'S GO!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
CAN I COME TOO?
I TOLD YOU TO CALL THEM BY TWO! THAT WAS THE ONLY THING I ASKED! HOW COULD YOU FORGET SUCH A SIMPLE TASK?!
A FIFTH-GRADER COULD DO YOUR JOB!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, KATAGIRI?!
BAM

I'M REALLY SORRY...
LATELY, YOU'VE BEEN SPACING OUT A LOT! ARE YOU SLACKING OFF?!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO WORK, THEN HURRY UP AND QUIT ALREADY!
HUH?
I QUIT.
FINE THEN.
IF I QUIT, YOU WON'T GET ANGRY ANYMORE, RIGHT?!
SO I QUIT! I'M DONE!
!
H...
H-HEY!!

IT'S ALRIGHT.
I'LL QUIT WORK, AND COOL MY HEAD AT HOME FOR A BIT...
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT KAZAMA, RIGHT?
I KNOW YOU LIKE TO WORRY, BUT SERIOUSLY, DON'T LET LITTLE THINGS BOTHER YOU!
HEY, KATAGIRI. DON'T LET THAT OLD GUY GET TO YOU.
THIS IS WHY I TOLD YOU TO GO AFTER A NORMAL GUY...
SERIOUSLY?
I SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE AFTER A GUY WHO CAN'T FORGET HIS OLD LOVER
I SHOULD HAVE GONE AFTER A NORMAL GUY...
I—
I never thought being this close to Kazama-san
SOMEONE WITHOUT A KID...
SOMEONE NORMAL—

meant being so far away from him
I WISH KAZAMA-SAN WERE NORMAL...
She's just tired
She's really lost it
The 30th Day FIN

The 39th Day:
Can't Turn Them into Memories

WHILE I WAS SETTING UP THE GARDEN,
TSUKAMOTO
A NEIGHBOR HAD TOLD ME ABOUT THE BASICS OF GARDENING, SO I WANTED TO TRY IT.
I FOUND A BOX UNDERNEATH A FLOWER POT.
WHEN I OPENED IT, THERE WERE STUFF THAT SEEMED TO BELONG TO YOUKO AND YOU.
I CALLED ON YOU BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT...
AH... I REMEMBER THIS!
TSUKAMOTO YOUKO
YOUKO GOT A TERRIBLE GRADE FOR HER PAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY.
WE HID THIS TOGETHER

In that case, why don't you just destroy it, instead of burying it in the garden?
Help me hide it
Yes... My mother will kill me if she sees it.
D?! You failed a subject?!
No way!!
It took me two whole days to write it! I want to keep it!
TSUKAMOTO YOUKO
D
Put something in it, too! This way, it'll be more fun once we open it a few years from now!
She spent only two days on it?
It doesn't matter!
But
I only have trivial stuff
It's the trivial stuff that makes one more nostalgic.

!
NO, NOT AT ALL.
UHM... WOULD YOU MIND IF I TAKE IT?
AH...
SAY, MASAMUNE-KUN,
KATAGIRI-SAN DIDN'T COME TODAY EITHER. DID SHE HAVE SOMETHING TO DO?

I SEE...
Y-YES, IT SEEMS SO.
SORRY, KOHARU.
!
that now is not the time to preoccupy myself with this...
I know...
CLUTCH
I know, but...

HEY, KAZAMA
IS THERE, BY ANY CHANCE, A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT?
ERM...
AH
RUSH KATAGI-
PLEASE,
WHAT'S UP?
DID YOU TWO HAVE A FIGHT?
N... NO.
Actually, it's been three days since we had a real conversation
I ALSO DON'T GET IT...
!
!

I think
I know the reason behind her behavior...
Even if I pretend not to understand,
HERE ARE THE DOCUMENTS!
C'MON, THAT DIDN'T EVEN HURT!
OUCH! WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
BAM
HOW OLD ARE YOU TO BE IGNORING HIM LIKE THAT? DUMB GIRL!
RIGHT. YOU THINK THAT WILL SOLVE ANYTHING? YOU'RE JUST BEING RIDICULOUS, SO STOP IT.
GYAAH!

I KNOW IT'S POINTLESS...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT HIS FEELINGS.
BUT IF I START TALKING IN FRONT OF KAZAMA-SAN...
I'D PROBABLY SAY TOO MUCH.
.....
BUT...
SO I PREFER
TO KEEP ANNOYING HIM LIKE THAT...
I HATE PEOPLE WHO GET MISERABLE JUST BECAUSE THINGS DON'T HAPPEN THE WAY THEY WANT THEM TO
LIFE IS NOT ALWAYS PINK.
AH...
YOU DON'T CARE IF YOU BOTHER THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU?
PFFT. SO JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR AN ANSWER YOU WOULDN'T LIKE,
.....

I DON'T ENJOY MORALIZING A NEGATIVE PERSON.
SO NOW, I WOULD REALLY LIKE YOU TO STOP SOBBING AND COMPLAINING IN FRONT OF ME BECAUSE OF THAT MATTER.
IT ANNOYS ME.
I AGREE WITH HER.
C'MON. LET'S GET BACK TO WORK.
EH?
!...

I wish...
Kazama-san were normal... Someone without an old lover whom he can't forget.
Someone without a kid...
IF YOU DON'T SMILE LIKE BEFORE, I'LL CRY!
YOU DON'T WANT THAT, DO YOU, KOHARU-CHAN?

IS IT STRANGE THAT MY FATHER IS UNMARRIED BUT HAS A KID?
SAY, KANNA-CHAN,
DO YOU THINK IT'S NOT NORMAL?
AT HOME, EVERYONE LIKES THE TWO OF YOU.
!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW ABOUT THAT... BUT...
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T CARE ABOUT IT, YOU KNOW.
THANK YOU.

HAHA, WHAT IS THIS THING...
IT'S LIKE A PAPER WRITTEN BY A GRADE-SCHOOLER!
I'M NOT SURPRISED SINCE THIS IS YOUKO'S
!...
Tsukamoto Youk

K-KAZAMA-SAN!
HIII!
!
flop
WHAT WERE THOSE DOCUMENTS? I'LL MAKE YOU A COPY RIGHT NOW...
OH, I'M SORRY... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAD ME SHOUTING...

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN MAKE A COPY OF THOSE.
HUH?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
K...
KAZAMA-SAN?!

!?

Tsukamoto
Tsukamoto yuuko

DON'T PICK THEM UP!
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID THAT
YOU WANTED TO MOVE FORWARD?!
IF YOU KEEP I'M THIS UP, GOING TO LEAVE YOU, KAZAMA-SAN!
DON'T YOU CARE FOR ME AT ALL?

I...
I'M REALLY SORRY...
I DON'T WANT YOUR APOLO-GIES!
TELL ME YOU DO!
TELL ME THAT YOU CARE!
THAT YOU'LL MAKE SOME EFFORT!
THAT YOU WANT TO STAY WITH ME...
.....
I'M SORRY

It's the trivial stuff
that makes one more nostalgic. .
It doesn't matter!
IT'S TRUE...

I MISS HER SO MUCH...
EVEN THOUGH I'M MAKING EFFORTS,
IN THE END, I JUST CAN'T DO IT...

I...
I'M HOME...
AH! GOOD EVENING, MASAMUNE-KUN!
!
YOU'RE ALONE?
UHM...
WHAT ABOUT KATAGIRI-SAN?
...
WELL...
SHE WON'T BE COMING ANY-MORE...
AH...

The 39th Day:FIN

Where am I ?
I'm hungry

The 40th Day: A Lost Child's Thoughts

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You

KAZAMA, DON'T STRESS YOURSELF!
DOESN'T YOUR DAUGHTER HAVE PRIVATE LESSONS TODAY?
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST, SO HURRY AND PICK HER UP!
ALL... ALL RIGHT.
THANKS...
YOU JUST GOT DUMPED, AND POOF!
THEY'RE NICE AGAIN!
HA HA.
HAAA...

Why? Why won't she be coming anymore?
WELL... WE TALKED A LITTLE LAST NIGHT...
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.
HOW ABOUT KOHARU? HOW IS SHE FARING?
I'LL TALK TO HER AGAIN TONIGHT WHEN I GET HOME.
YEAH.
EVEN NOW, YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH THE STEREOTYPICAL GUY WHO LIVES IN REGRET...
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
GOOD LUCK!
BYE!
RESERVE ROOM

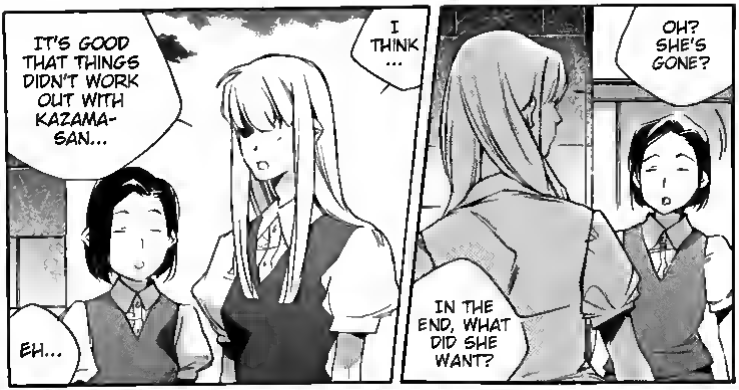
BAM
KAZAMA-SAN IS THE EPITOME OF REGRET!
IT'S OFTEN SAID THAT MEN ARE FULL OF REGRETS, BUT REALLY...
STILL, I KNOW I WAS THE ONE WHO PUSHED YOU INTO DOING IT,
BUT I'M ALSO SAD THAT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT.
Vrrm
Vrrm
THIS BOX IS IN THE WAY!
DO YOU THINK SHE'S STILL UNDER THE EFFECT OF THE ALCOHOL FROM YESTERDAY?
WHO KNOWS
LET'S FINISH ARRANGING THESE, SO WE CAN GO HOME!
IT'S OVER NOW.
IT'S USELESS TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
WHAT..?
HUH?
ISN'T THAT CHILD KOHARU?

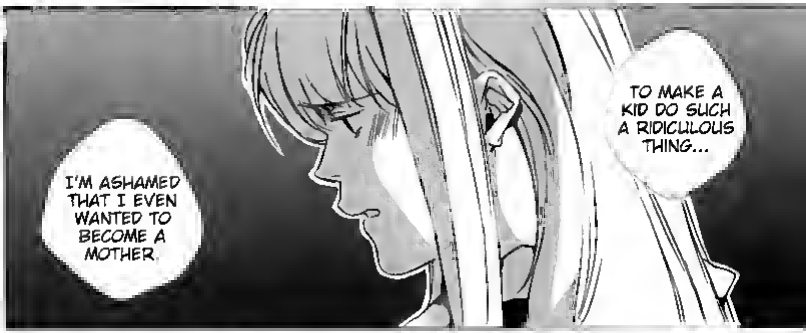
KOHARU-CHAN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DON'T YOU HAVE PRIVATE LESSONS TODAY?
AH...
YOU'RE NOT COMING TO OUR HOUSE ANYMORE ...
KATAGIRI-SAN...
IT...
IT'S BECAUSE...
!
KA-... KATAGIRI-SAN,
DO YOU HATE MASAMUNE?

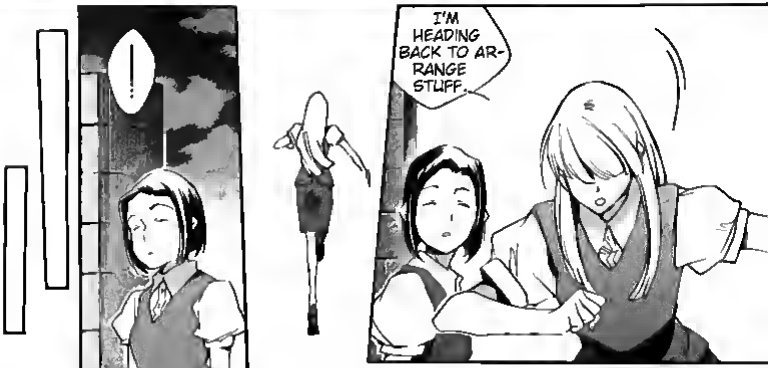
WHAT!?
THEN...
THEN IS IT MY FAULT?
OF COURSE NOT!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KOHARU-CHAN?
I...
I PROMISE
I WON'T SQUISH COCK-ROACHES WITH MY SLIPPERS ANYMORE!
I'LL BEHAVE MORE LIKE A GIRL!
I'LL PREFER BLACK CATS TO LADY-BUGS!
AND... ALSO...
FROM NOW ON,

SO...
SO...
YOU'RE WRONG...
YOU'RE WRONG...
KOHARU-CHAN...
I'M SORRY. IT'S MY FAULT...
I DON'T MIND AT ALL.
I DON'T MIND THAT YOU SQUISH COCK-ROACHES WITH YOUR SLIPPERS AND LOVE LADY-BUGS.

I'D LIKE TO BRING YOU HOME, BUT I STILL HAVE SOME WORK THAT I NEED TO FINISH TODAY.
!!!
AH...
EXCUSE ME!
COME ON, HURRY HOME.
KAZAMA-SAN ALREADY LEFT. HE'LL BE WORRIED.
B-BUT..
SAY...
WHERE DO YOU LIVE AGAIN?
I'D LIKE YOU TO BRING THIS KID HOME, I'LL BUY YOU LUNCH SOME-TIME~
EH? REALLY?
SURE, WE'RE NOT IN A HURRY ANYWAY..
!


IT'S GOOD THAT THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT WITH KAZAMA-SAN...
I THINK...
EH...
OH? SHE'S GONE?
IN THE END, WHAT DID SHE WANT?


TO MAKE A KID DO SUCH A RIDICULOUS THING...
I'M ASHAMED THAT I EVEN WANTED TO BECOME A MOTHER.


!
I'M HEADING BACK TO AR-RANGE STUFF.

OH!
THEY'RE DISMISSED.
BYE, SENSEI!
GOOD-BYE!
GOODBYE, SHUU-KUN!
SEE YA.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, MASAMUNE?
I'M WAITING FOR KOHARU. IS SHE STILL INSIDE?

HUH? KOHARU?
SHE DIDN'T COME TODAY.
I THOUGHT SHE WAS SICK...
WHAT ?!
HEY...
IT'S RARE FOR HER TO BE ABSENT...
DID YOU, BY ANY CHANCE,
HAVE A FIGHT WITH HER?
S-SORRY, SHUU-KUN.
I NEED TO HURRY HOME.
?
I was right?
What?

ARE YOU MARRIED?
EH?
UH... UHM...
NO, NOT YET!
I'VE BEEN SINGLE FOR TWO YEARS NOW!
WHAT KIND OF MAN WOULD YOU LIKE TO MARRY?
THEN...
KIDS THESE DAYS ALREADY TALK ABOUT SUCH THINGS?
THEY'RE MORE MATURE THAN WE ARE
WHAT KIND OF MAN...
WELL...
PERHAPS ONE WITH A GOOD SALARY
Uhm.
AND A STABLE JOB.
ONE WITH A NICE PERSONALITY..
IT WOULD BE GREAT IF HE'S GOOD-LOOKING, TOO.
YEAH!
AND...
WHAT IF THAT PERSON HAS A KID?

Y-YEAH...
AND IF SHE'S IN THE SAME SITUATION, THEY CAN HELP EACH OTHER OUT!
AH...
THAT WOULD BE GREAT FOR A WOMAN WHO LIKES KIDS.
BUT YOU, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
UH...
UH... WELL...
A SINGLE FATHER ?!
ERM... WELL...
UH... WE?
UHM...
!

IS IT HERE?
YES. THANK YOU.

!
Fuuuuu...
CLACK
I'M... I'M HOME!
I'M OPENING THE DOOR!
KO-KOHARU, ARE YOU IN YOUR ROOM?
KOHARU?
KOHARU?

WHERE COULD SHE HAVE GONE OFF TO...?
KOHARU...

The 41st Day:
How to Spend Your Time

SO SHE'S A 9-YEAR-OLD LITTLE GIRL
NAMED KOHARU KAZAMA...
LAST SEEN WEARING A STRIPED RED DRESS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'LL BE KEEPING THIS PHOTO.
PLEASE DO.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU...

IT'S ALREADY LATE.
I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE...
YOU CAN GO HOME AND REST.
MASA-MUNE!
YOUR FATHER JUST TOLD ME!
IS IT TRUE THAT KOHARU-CHAN'S MISSING?
AHH... YES, IT'S TRUE...
R-REALLY?! BUT..
YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HER, RIGHT?!
O-OF COURSE!

BUT...
SHE'S NOWHERE TO BE FOUND...
ALL OF US HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR HER FOR HOURS!
IN EVERY PLACE THAT COMES TO MIND!
YOU IDIOT!
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF SHE GOT KIDNAPPED?!
MA-MADAM KAZAMA!
HOW COULD YOU LET THIS HAPPEN?!
CALM DOWN...
DON'T GIVE UP JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T FIND HER!
DO EVERY-THING YOU CAN!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR USE-LESSNESS THAT THIS KIND OF THING HAP-PENED!

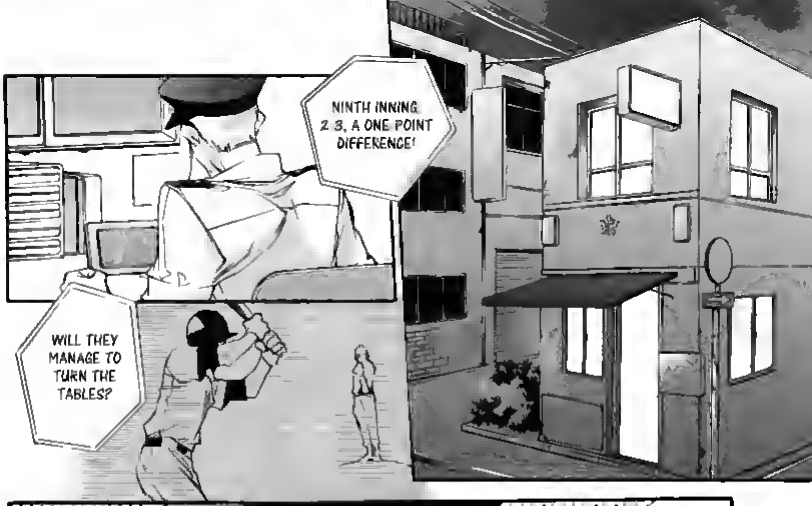
IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT, MADAM.
KOHARU-CHAN IS A SMART CHILD.
SHE'LL COME BACK.
ALSO, SHE MAY GO TO EITHER OF YOUR HOUSES,
SO IT WOULD REALLY HELP IF YOU JUST STAY HOME.
ALL RIGHT. WE'LL GO HOME AND STAND BY.
I HOPE TO RECEIVE SOME GOOD NEWS SOON.
MASA-MUNE!
SHE HITS AS HARD AS I DO,
SO THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
SEE 'YA

I'LL LEND HER TO YOU JUST FOR TODAY. GOOD LUCK!
!
THANK YOU, SHUU-KUN.
Tug Tug
YOU SHOULD ALSO GO HOME, MADAM.
IF KOHARU DECIDES TO GO SOMEWHERE, SHE'D MOST PROBABLY GO TO YOUKO'S PLACE...
IS... IS THAT SO.
BUT LET ME KNOW IF THE POLICE CONTACTS YOU!
O.. OKAY
MOM, CAN YOU GO WITH HER?
YES, I'LL CALL YOU FIRST.
ALL RIGHT.
SHE'S MOST LIKELY A HUNDRED TIMES MORE WORRIED THAN I AM, SO I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK AFTER HER.

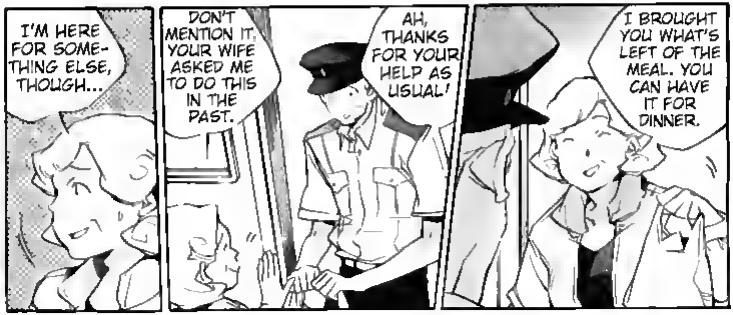
.....
SIGH

!!
KOHARU ...
WHERE DID YOU GO..?
I'M WORRIED TO DEATH...

I'M HUNGRY...
.....
HUH?
GOOD-BYE!
GOOD-BYE!


NINTH INNING. 2-3, A ONE-POINT DIFFERENCE!
WILL THEY MANAGE TO TURN THE TABLES?

TERASHI-MA-SAN!


I'M HERE FOR SOME-THING ELSE, THOUGH...
DON'T MENTION IT. YOUR WIFE ASKED ME TO DO THIS IN THE PAST.
AH, THANKS FOR YOUR HELP AS USUAL!
I BROUGHT YOU WHAT'S LEFT OF THE MEAL. YOU CAN HAVE IT FOR DINNER.

IT SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS LOST, BUT SHE REFUSES TO TELL ME WHERE SHE LIVES...
MAYBE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO GO HOME.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, SO I BROUGHT HER HERE.
CAN I LEAVE HER WITH YOU?
LIM, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
.....
YOUR FAMILY MUST BE WORRIED!
.....

DON'T YOU WANT TO GO HOME?
IS THERE A REASON YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR MOM OR YOUR DAD?
N-NO!
I REALLY WANT TO GO HOME.
BUT IF I DO,
!
I'LL ONLY CAUSE TROUBLE FOR MASA-MUNE...
!
ERM... DID YOU ASK MASAMUNE ABOUT THAT?
EH...?
DID YOU ASK HIM IF YOU'RE CAUSING TROUBLE?
!
KEEPING THINGS TO YOURSELF IS A MISTAKE.

HOME RUN! THE GAP WIDENS!
UWOOOH!
I HAVE TO E-MAIL MY SON ABOUT THIS!
N-NO WAY!
!
YOU KNOW... A FEW MONTHS AGO, MY SON AND I MADE A PROMISE WITH EACH OTHER.
?
BUT SHE LEFT WITHOUT REGRETS, SHE WAS REALLY CONTENT. SO MUCH THAT I ENVY HER.
ACTUALY... MY WIFE WENT TO HEAVEN AT THAT TIME.

MY WIFE... WAS SOMEONE WHO WOULD JUST SAY AND DO THINGS ON A WHIM ..
SO ALL DAY LONG, SHE WOULD KEEP TALKING AND MOVING AROUND
TO BE HONEST, MY SON AND I FOUND HER TIRING.
SHE TOLD US CALMLY...
BUT ONE DAY, WHEN WE FOUND OUT THAT SHE WAS SICK...
AND THAT SHE BARELY HAD A WEEK TO LIVE...
THEN SHE SMILED PROUDLY,
AS IF SHE WAS SAYING, "AMAZING, ISN'T IT?"
I have no regrets...
for you, my husband, and for you, my son
I've done everything I wanted to do

SO, MY SON AND I DID EVERYTHING THAT WE COULD COME UP WITH.
WE DID THINGS TO MAKE UP FOR THE TEN YEARS WE DIDN'T CELEBRATE HER BIRTHDAY.
WE MASSAGED HER FEET...
ACTUALLY, I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS SCARED...
BEFORE THAT HAPPENED, I USED TO JUST PUT THINGS ASIDE, THINKING "I'LL DO IT WHEN I HAVE TIME."
IN THE END, I REALIZED THAT I WASN'T ABLE TO DO ANYTHING FOR HER.
HOWEVER...
THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TIME.
THE WEEK WENT BY QUICKLY, AND MY WIFE PASSED AWAY.
WE FOUND OURSELVES ON OUR OWN...

AT THAT TIME, MY SON WAS STILL A HIGH-SCHOOLER HE TOLD ME...
I haven't really talked with mom or you ever since I was in middle school
Right now
I have too many regrets...
But from now on, I'll tell you every thing I think about.
I, too, will tell you everything I think about.
.....

THERE.
SENT IT...
THE PEOPLE DEAR TO US WILL LEAVE SOMEDAY.
THEN IT WILL BE OUR TURN TO LEAVE..
IT'S SOMETHING BASIC, BUT WE DON'T NECESSARILY THINK ABOUT IT...
MY SON IS A BIG FAN OF THIS BASEBALL TEAM!
BUT HE'S CURRENTLY IN A SEMINARY, SO I KEEP HIM UPDATED!
!
GROWL
AH, ARE YOU HUNGRY?
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SO...

*konbu — kelp or large seaweed

ANY...
ANY-THING'S FINE...
WHICH DO YOU PREFER? SALMON, PRUNE, OR KONBU*?
OH, THERE ARE EVEN ONIGIRI!
I HAVE SOME FOOD THE LADY GAVE ME EARLIER.
WHY KEEP QUIET WHEN YOU CAN SAY IT?
TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT! COME ON, SAY IT!

.....
YOU... YOU KNOW, MY MAMA'S ALSO IN HEAVEN, BUT...
AH...
OH..
I COULDN'T TELL HER WHAT I WANTED TO SAY...
!
IT'S SAD TO LOSE A PART OF THE FAMILY, BUT..
AT THE SAME TIME, WE GET TO LEARN THE VALUE OF TIME FASTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

WE KNOW HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF LIFE,
AND THAT'S TRULY AN ADVAN-TAGE.
RIGHT...

MY GIRL

Pleasure to Live With You

The 42nd Day: Similar People

RURURU……
!
THE PHONE!
IT…IT MIGHT BE THE POLICE!
KOHARU?!
VLAM

ARGH!
BLAM
BAM
OUCH OUCH OUCH OUCH!
BAM
OW...
RURURURU…
THE PHONE…
THE… THE PHONE…
AH… NO— YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG NUMBER.
AH— I'M SORRY
ISN'T THIS NAKAMOTO-SAN'S NUMBER?
WHAT?
EH?
HE-HELLO? KAZAMA SPEAKING!

Tooot
Tooot
Tooot
AH...
OH, IT'S KOHARU'S PHONE THAT'S MADE FROM YOGURT CUPS!
WOAH... BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES...

Hello!
!
THAT'S RIGHT. SHE WAS STILL IN PRE-SCHOOL
WHEN I MET HER...
Want to be with the person who loved mama
I... I...
From now on,
we'll be living together!
!
I DIDN'T WANT TO BECOME MISERABLE AGAIN LIKE WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOUKO!..
SO THIS TIME...

ISN'T THIS WHAT I SUPPOSEDLY LEARNED?
...ZAMA
THIS TIME, I DECIDED TO HOLD ON...
KAZAMA-SAN!
ARE YOU THERE?
AH... I'M SORRY. I WAS ARRANGING STUFF IN THE RESERVE ROOM, SO I WASN'T ABLE TO CHECK MY PHONE ..
DID... DID YOU FIND KOHARU?
KA-KATAGIRI-SAN?
HUFF
HUFF

EH...?
SHE CAME TO SEE ME BY HERSELF THIS AFTERNOON.
SHE ASKED ME WHY I WON'T BE COMING TO YOUR PLACE ANY MORE...
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO ANSWER, SO I AVOIDED THE QUESTION ..
ERRR... WELL... NOT YET...
NO WAY ...
I COULD ARRANGE THOSE THINGS ANYTIME, BUT I WAS SCARED OF BEING ALONE WITH HER...
SO I ASKED MY COLLEAGUES TO WALK HER HOME.
THEY TOLD ME THEY HAD BROUGHT HER RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER HOUSE..
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
NO... OF COURSE NOT!
AH ...
SORRY! I'M REALLY SORRY!
I'M FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED.

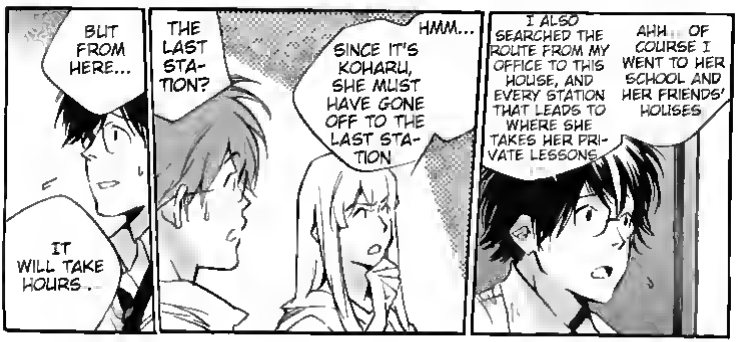
SHE WAS REALLY DETERMINED TO MOVE ON AND FIND A NEW MOM...
BUT I HAD TO BE LIKE THIS...
KOHARU LEFT BECAUSE SHE GOT TIRED OF ME
HA HA...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
GO ON, IT'S GETTING LATE.
YOU SHOULD GO HOME AND REST.
KAZAMA-SAN, ARE YOU SERIOUS RIGHT NOW?
HUH?
OR ARE YOU JUST SAYING THAT TO BE NICE?
OF COURSE, I'M SERIOUS.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL RESPONSIBLE--

PUNCH
KA—
KATAGIRI-SAN...?
BWO...
BWOOOH...
KOF
KOF
KAZAMA-SAN!
SOME-TIMES, YOU'RE SO THICK THAT YOU'RE ASKING TO BE HIT!
EH...?
SHE PUT AWAY THE LADYBUGS SHE LOVED
AND WORE BLACK CAT STRINGS.
HUH?

No,
it doesn't matter if she can't
Would you prefer a mom who can cook?
JUST THE OTHER DAY WHEN MY COOKING WAS A FAILURE,
KOHARU TOLD ME...
I
I just want a mom who can protect Masamune
N-NO... I..
I MADE SOME EFFORTS, HOPING TO BE A PART OF YOUR FAMILY ONE DAY ..
IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS,
STOP ACTING LIKE YOU'RE A VICTIM!
AND YOU SAY SHE GOT TIRED OF YOU?

SO, RATHER THAN TELLING ME TO GO HOME AND REST...
I WOULD PREFER THAT YOU LAY THE BLAME ON ME.
THAT WAY, I'D FEEL COMFORTED, THINKING THAT YOU'RE COUNTING ON ME...
Y... YOU'RE RIGHT.
I WAS INCONSIDERATE...

SO, IN WHICH EXACT AREA DID YOU LOOK FOR HER?
EH...?
KOHARU... WHERE DID YOU LOOK FOR HER?


AHH... OF COURSE I WENT TO HER SCHOOL AND HER FRIENDS' HOUSES.
I ALSO SEARCHED THE ROUTE FROM MY OFFICE TO THIS HOUSE, AND EVERY STATION THAT LEADS TO WHERE SHE TAKES HER PRIVATE LESSONS.
HMM... SINCE IT'S KOHARU, SHE MUST HAVE GONE OFF TO THE LAST STATION.
THE LAST STATION?
BUT FROM HERE...
IT WILL TAKE HOURS.

SHE DID IT
FOR YOU.
HOW CAN A LITTLE GIRL DO ALL THAT? IT'S A MYSTERY, BUT...
SHE SMILED DESPITE MY RIDICULOUS JEALOUSY
AND ATE MY FAILED COOKING UNTIL HER PLATE WAS EMPTY...
KOHARU BELIEVES IT'S HER FAULT THAT I LEFT YOU,
SO I DON'T MIND GOING ALL THE WAY TO THE LAST STATION.
AFTER ALL, IT'S FOR HER PRECIOUS DAD.
YOU TWO HAVE A LOT IN COMMON...
YOU FORM A BETTER FAMILY THAN ANY OF YOU THINK.
HOWEVER, BOTH OF YOU DON'T TRUST YOURSELVES.

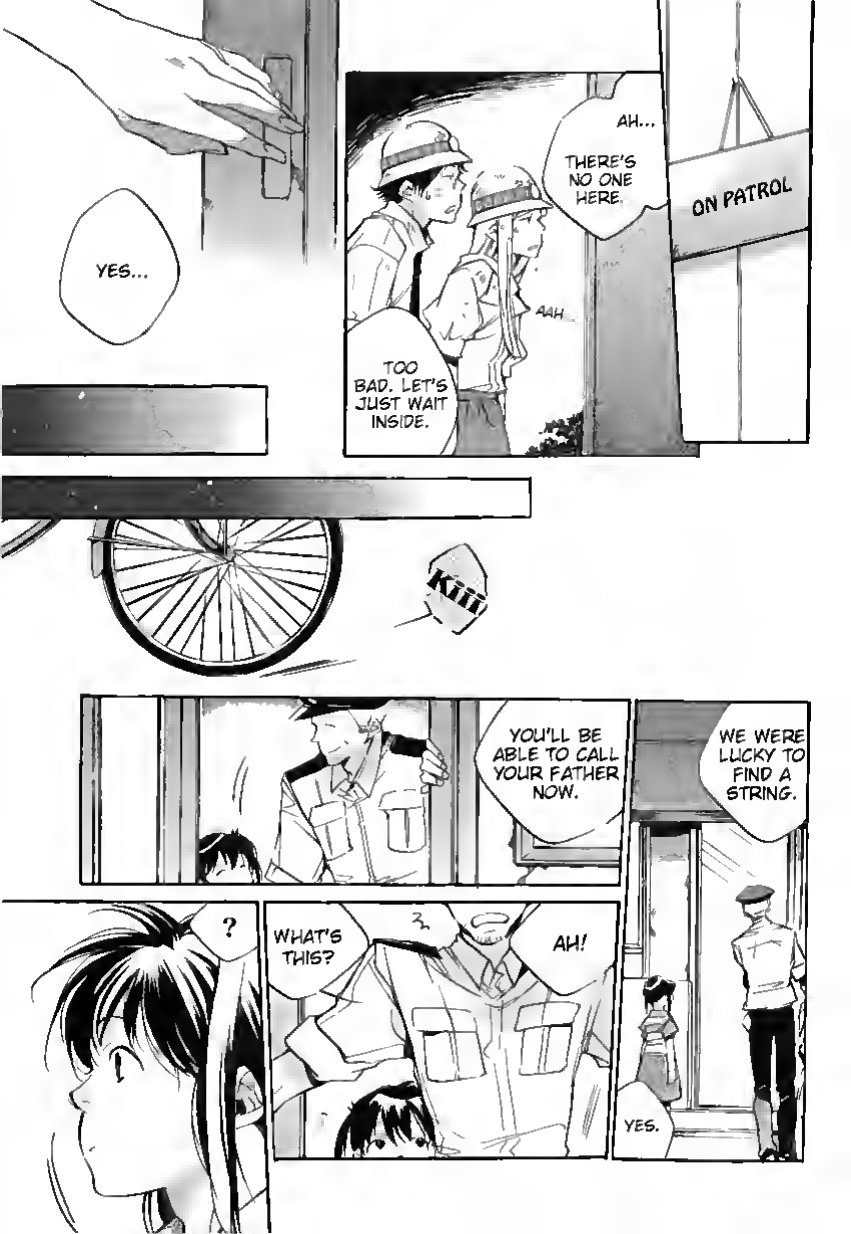
I BROUGHT A SECOND HELMET JUST IN CASE...
SO YOU'RE JUST GOING TO WAIT HERE ALONE, FEELING GUILTY AND WORRIED?
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME,
COME ON!
TOK
TAK
I'LL LOOK FOR HER UNTIL I COLLAPSE.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
OF
OF COURSE I'LL TAKE IT!
N-NOW, LET'S GO, KATAGIRI-SAN!
TAK
ALL RIGHT.
NGGGH...

!
NO. I KNOW IT.
THEN HURRY AND CALL. YOUR FATHER MUST BE WORRIED.
WHAT'S WRONG?
DID YOU FORGET YOUR PHONE NUMBER?
!
YOU CAN PASS THE PHONE TO ME IF YOU WANT,
BUT I THINK IT'S BETTER IF YOU TALK TO HIM FIRST—
!
YOU...
YOU THINK SO...?
!
WHAT?
YOU'RE NOT CONVINCED?

AH... DO YOU HAVE PAPER CUPS AND A STRING?
?
I'D LIKE TO MAKE A STRING TELE-PHONE ...
A STRING TELE-PHONE?
I MADE ONE FOR MY MOM A LONG TIME AGO, JUST IN CASE.
BUT IN THE END, I WAS THE ONE WHO USED IT...
IT'S JUST A STRING TELE-PHONE...
BUT...
WHEN I USED IT, SOMETHING WONDERFUL HAPPENED.
I SAID I WANTED TO LIVE WITH MASAMUNE-KUN,
AND MY WISH WAS GRANT-ED...

LET'S MAKE ONE
ALL RIGHT!
SO IF I HAVE ANOTHER ONE, MAYBE I'D BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO SAY IT AGAIN..
WE USE PAPER CLIPS ALL THE TIME SO THERE ARE LOTS HERE
BUT FOR THE STRING, WE'LL NEED TO GO TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE
ON PATROL
I NEED TO MAKE MY ROUNDS, THOUGH, SO WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE A DETOUR. SORRY.
ARE . ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
IT'S NEARLY TIME ANYWAY, SO IT'S FINE.
OKAY.
Kling
Kling

Gshhh
I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING...
WE'RE LOST...
HUFF
HUFF
KOHARU'S NOT THERE ...
YEAH...
ERRR... MAYBE I SHOULDN'T ASK THIS, BUT...
WHERE ARE WE?
IT'S A POLICE POST!
HOW LUCKY!
AH!
LOOK, KAZAMA-SAN!


YES...
AH...
THERE'S NO ONE HERE.
ON PATROL
AAH
TOO BAD. LET'S JUST WAIT INSIDE.
KIIE
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CALL YOUR FATHER NOW.
WE WERE LUCKY TO FIND A STRING.
?
WHAT'S THIS?
AH!
YES.

WHO... WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?
THEY'RE ALL DIRTY
HMM ...?

IT'S... IT'S HIM.
?
WHAT'S THIS?
AH... EXCUSE ME
"WE GOT LOST WHILE LOOKING FOR MY DAUGHTER.
We got lost while looking for my daughter Please wake us up when you return. Kazama
PLEASE WAKE US UP WHEN YOU RETURN. KAZAMA"
MY... MY DAD.
HMM?
OH!
LOOK HERE!
WELL, THEY GOT INTO A PRETTY BAD STATE JUST TO FIND YOU...
SO IT'S HIM?
SO...
EH?

HE'S GOT A STRING TELE-PHONE
JUST LIKE YOU.
HA HA..
YOU WON'T HAVE TO ASK HIM.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOUR DAD ALSO WANTS TO BE WITH YOU!
YES...

The 43rd Day: My Girl

AFTER THE SHORT, RAINY SEASON...
A SUMMER THAT'S HOTTER THAN USUAL CAME.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO ALL OF YOU THAT MY FATHER COULD LIVE HIS LIFE UNTIL THE END.
I THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
AS CICADAS BEGAN TO SING,
OUR LANDLORD WENT TO HEAVEN...

ALSO...
THE HOUSE IS GETTING MORE AND MORE RUN-DOWN,
AND NO ONE'S CAPABLE OF MANAGING IT IN MY FATHER'S STEAD.
I SEE...
THAT'S A SHAME...
NEXT MONTH,
OUR APARTMENT WILL BE DE-MOLISHED...

"Why don't we live here someday...?"
VVVVV
Pat Pat
COME ON!
WORK ALREADY!
YOU ANNO---
EH...?
Dzzzt
Flap Flap Flap Flap

IT'S NOT ONLY PEOPLE.
!!!
IT'S BROKEN ...
WE LOSE MANY THINGS EVERYDAY.
AND EACH TIME WE HAVE TO PART FROM
SOMETHING WE HOLD DEAR
WOW! CAKES!

AH, I ALMOST FORGOT. BEFORE I LEAVE,
HERE, A GIFT FOR KOHARU.
YES...
I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME WHEN KOHARU WAS MISSING...
ARE THESE REALLY FOR ME?
LEAVE?
YES.
IT'S A BIT SUDDEN, BUT...
NEXT WEEKEND, I'LL START WORKING AT A BRANCH OFFICE NEAR MY PARENTS' PLACE.
MY MOM IS TAKING CARE OF MY GRANDFATHER BY HERSELF,
SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD HELP HER.
THE BOSS HAS ALREADY COORDINATED THINGS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION
EH?

I REALLY LIKE IT HERE. IT'S A SHAME.
I REALLY LIKE EV-ERYBODY.
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING, KAZAMA-SAN...
!
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD
NO...
LOOK, MASA-MUNE!
klink

TODAY, AT SCHOOL, I MADE A TIN-CAN WIND CHIME!
I'LL MAKE ONE FOR KATAGIRI-SAN NEXT TIME!
THAT'S REALLY NICE
kling kling
AH...
THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD GIVE HER THAT ONE
SHE HANDED ME HER GIFT FOR YOU.
IT'S A PARTING GIFT AND HER WAY TO THANK YOU...
A PARTING GIFT?
I..
I DON'T WANT IT!
EH...
!
YES.
SHE'S GOING TO WORK IN ANOTHER OFFICE...

I DON'T WANT THEM, SO TELL HER TO STAY!
I DON'T WANT THEM!
BUT... LOOK,
THERE ARE EVEN HANDKERCHIEFS WITH LADYBUGS
!
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED, BUT...
WE CAN'T ALWAYS RELY ON HER...
SHE HAS HER REASONS.
I... I CAN'T.
YOU'RE MAKING THE SAME FACE AS MAMA...
EH?

MAMA WAS THINKING OF YOU AS SHE RAISED ME ON HER OWN,
BUT SHE OFTEN LOOKED VERY SAD.
ALTHOUGH SHE DID IT FOR THE PERSON SHE LOVED, SHE STILL MADE THAT FACE!
IS THAT A GOOD OR BAD THING? I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE!
AH...
KOHARU...
DASH
SLAM

!
Flap
Flap
Ring

AH..
IT'S NOT ONLY PEOPLE.
I KNOW THAT LIFE IS LIKE THAT...
EVERYDAY, A LOT OF THINGS DISAPPEAR AND END UP FORGOTTEN.
JUST LIKE THESE LIGHTS THAT TURN ON OR OFF IN A SECOND.

BUT I AM POWERLESS AGAINST THIS EMPTINESS,
AND I CAN'T HELP BUT HANG ONTO IT.
KO... KOHARU?
DAM DAM BADAM
ARE YOU OKAY?

I FELL IN MY DREAM!
I...
AND WHAT WERE YOU DREAMING OF?
HMM...
YOU WERE TAKEN HOSTAGE,
SO I WAS FORCED TO DO WHAT THEY WANTED...
EH...
ALIENS?
THAT'S SOME-THING!
I...
I WAS FIGHTING ALIENS.

THEY WANTED ME TO TRANSFORM ALL THE LADYBUGS IN THE WORLD INTO COCKROACHES,
AND EAT UP MY HOUSE...
THE MORE I OBEYED THEM, THE MORE THINGS I LIKED DISAPPEARED.
BUT I KNEW YOU COULD MAKE EVEN BETTER THINGS.
ALSO...
IN THE END, YOU CAME HOME AND SMILED.
THAT MADE ME HAPPY.

HER INNOCENCE EMBARRASSES ME, BUT...
SOMETIMES..
...COME HERE.
IF MY SMILE IS ENOUGH TO MAKE HER HAPPY...
WHAT ELSE COULD I ASK FOR...?
THE NET OVER THERE IS BROKEN.
AH!

AND THE WINDOW THERE IS CHIPPED.
THERE'S EVEN A TRACE OF SEEPAGE OVER THERE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
IF I KEEP HANGING ONTO THIS HOUSE,
IT WOULD SURELY FALL DOWN ON ME IN THE END...
YES.
IT HAS RESISTED WELL UP TO NOW...

AH, MADAM, THE LANDLORD'S DAUGHTER!
HELLO.
HELLO THERE!
OWWW... IT'S HOT ONCE AGAIN...
DON'T WORRY, EVERYTHING'S FINE. WE WERE JUST VISITING SEVERAL PROSPECTIVE APARTMENTS.
HAVE YOU FOUND A PLACE TO MOVE IN TO?
CAN I HELP YOU IN ANY WAY?
YES...
HAAA
IT SEEMS THEY'RE GOING TO BUILD A PARK HERE.
WELL, THAT'S GOOD...
WOAH, IS THAT TRUE?!
IT WON'T BE ENTIRELY GONE?
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!
I TELL MYSELF THAT THIS WAY, A PART OF THE HOUSE MY FATHER LOVED WILL STILL EXIST...
THE WOOD FROM THE HOUSE, THAT'S STILL USABLE, WILL BE RECYCLED TO MAKE BENCHES.
EH? A PARK?

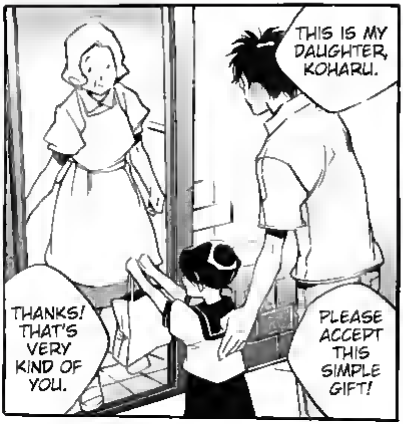
THAT'S GREAT, MASAMUNE!
YES.
IT IS.
IT'S TRUE THAT WE LOSE MANY THINGS EV-ERYDAY.
HOWEVER, THERE ARE EVEN BETTER THINGS THAT TAKE THEIR PLACE...
AS FOR KOHARU'S LOVE FOR YOUKO AND ME, IT'S DEEPLY ROOTED IN HER HEART...

THE EMPTINESS I FELT HAD NO REASON TO EXIST...
HE...
HELLO!
SO HOT!
HMM?
HELLO, KAZAMA-SAN!
HERE, HAVE SOME ICED TEA.
SO... SORRY...
DON'T COME IN HERE WITH THAT FACE! IT FEELS EVEN HOTTER!

AHH! THANK YOU!
THIS IS GREAT!
YOU'RE WELCOME.

AH! KATAGIRI-SAN!
THIS... THIS SUMMER,
WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF WE GO VISIT YOU?

AH...
SURE.
MY PLEA-SURE.
TODAY, I STILL HOLD YOUKO DEAR.
IF I SLOWLY MOVE FOR-WARD,
THIS FEEL-ING WILL NO LONGER HOLD ME BACK. IT WILL SUP-PORT ME INSTEAD...
IT WILL LEAD ME SOME-WHERE...



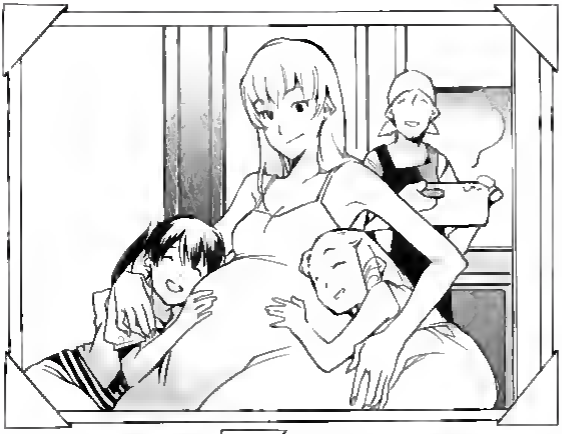
The 43rd Day: FIN

The Final Day: A Father's Socks

DARN!
SHE MUST HAVE GONE TO SEE OUR NEIGHBORS...
HM?
Flap Flap
WHAT'S THIS?
HAHA!
SO MANY MEMO-RIES.
Spring 2006
I now have a grand-daughter.
Her name is Koharu.
SPRING 2006
I NOW HAVE A GRAND-DAUGHTER.
HER NAME IS KOHARU.
A LOT OF THINGS CONFUSED ME, BUT...

BIT BY BIT, OUR EVERY-DAY LIFE CHANGED AND BECAME MORE INTEREST-ING.
Shichigo-san
In the end, Koharu didn't wear the kimono I had carefully chosen for her
Flap
MY GOAL WAS TO RAISE MASA-MUNE (THOUGH I'VE GIVEN UP ON THE IDEA OF HIM MARRYING SOMEONE..)
THEN DO WHATEVER I WANT,
AND FINALLY, GO TO HEAVEN WITH MY HUSBAND.
OHH...
WHEN DID SHE WRITE THIS...?

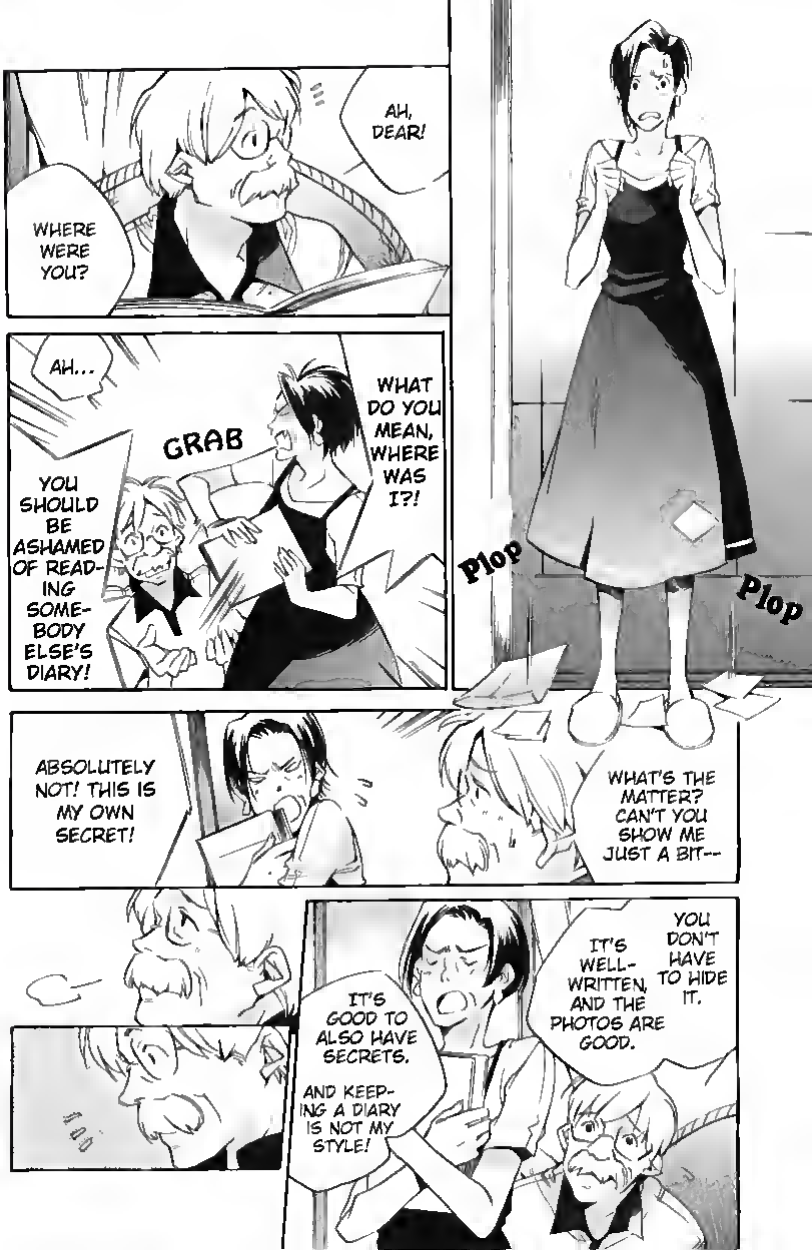
AT PRES-ENT,
I'M GETTING SERIOUS WITH PHOTOGRAPHY EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER TRIED IT.
WHY AM I MAKING THINGS DIFFICULT FOR MYSELF?
ONE MORE PERSON AROUND US
IS ENOUGH TO MAKE OUR LIVES MORE EX-CITING.



I BELIEVE I HAVE DISCOVERED IT AGAIN...

Anna will soon be a mommy to a little boy!

Shuu, after having discovered that his father's hair was becoming sparse, was worried he'd get bald himself.


AH, DEAR!
WHERE WERE YOU?
AH...
GRAB
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHERE WAS I?!
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF READ-ING SOME-BODY ELSE'S DIARY!
Plop
Plop
ABSOLUTELY NOT! THIS IS MY OWN SECRET!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? CAN'T YOU SHOW ME JUST A BIT--
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT.
IT'S WELL-WRITTEN, AND THE PHOTOS ARE GOOD.
IT'S GOOD TO ALSO HAVE SECRETS.
AND KEEP-ING A DIARY IS NOT MY STYLE!

WHAT ARE THESE PHOTOS ..!?
AH... THEY FELL.
THESE ARE KOHARU'S PHOTOS DURING HER MIDDLE-SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY.
I DEVELOPED THEM AT THE BASE-MENT.
OH...
SHE HAS GROWN SO MUCH...

SOMEDAY... I'D LIKE TO LOOK AT THEM CALMLY
WITH YOU...

HM... HMPH!
LET'S SEE! I WON'T FORGIVE YOU FOR SOME TIME!
AH.
ISN'T MASAMUNE COMING OVER TODAY?
EH? I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.
OF COURSE YOU DO. HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO INTRODUCE US TO KATAGIRI-SAN. YOU KNOW, HIS FORMER OFFICEMATE.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
IT... IT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU TOLD ME!
I CAN'T OPEN THE DOOR WEARING THIS!
WHAT WILL I DO IF I RUIN MASAMUNE'S CHANCE TO MARRY?!
TRY TO BUY ME SOME TIME, I'LL JUST CHANGE CLOTHES!
Ding Dong
AH! THEY'RE HERE!
EH?!
B-BUT... UHM ..
I'M EVEN WORSE ..
EH...

WHAT?! YOU'RE WEARING ONLY ONE SOCK?! THE SHAME!!
Ding Dong Ding Dong
Y-YES! JUST A MINUTE!
WHERE ARE YOUR SOCKS?!
YOUR SOCKS! YOUR SOCKS!
BADAM
BA DAM
BA DAM
WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN THERE?

MYGIRL

A Pleasure to Live With You

When I started My Girl, I was working on weekdays and drawing on weekends. It was my first series, so everyday, I was tired and kept wondering about the point of someone as bad as me to continue drawing. I thought that if I keep doing it, perhaps I would find the answer; however, this still torments me up to this day.

I thought about it and realized that if I stop, thinking that my doubts would disappear if I do, my life would probably be very lonely.

I'm glad I did this series. I plan to work hard and hope to see you all again in another story.

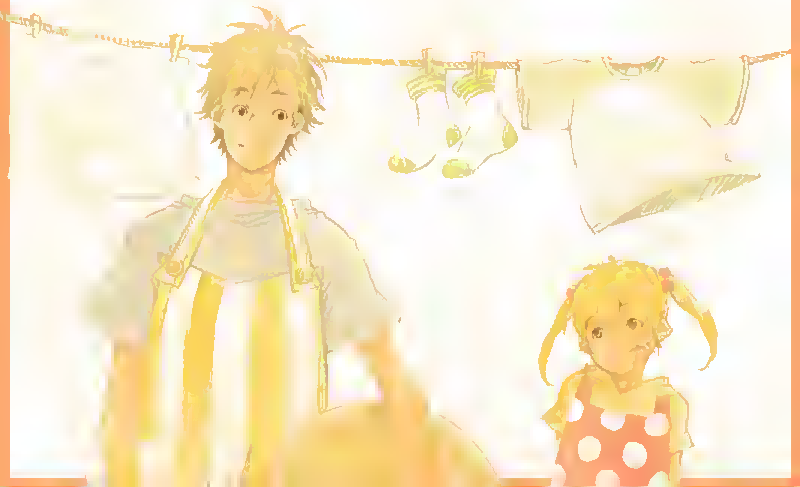
October 2010
SAHARA Mizu

From the bottom of my heart, thank you. If not for all of you, I wouldn't be able to keep going until this last volume:d

When I was a student, I would occasionally draw for a Fanzine I created with my friend. When I graduated, my friends, one after the other, all chose a secure path. I was so worried I'd get left behind, so I dropped everything to work like everyone—that is, until my editor gave me a good hard kick on the butt.

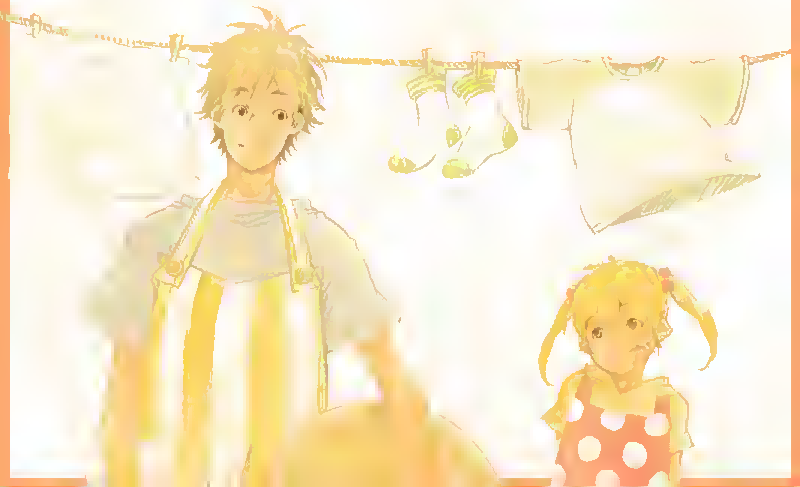
MY GIRL

LELE



MY GIRL

LELE



Hi everyone, this is Auwx!

I hope you enjoyed this

My Girl 36 scanlation.

If you did please leave a comment on

auwx.livejournal.com

It was done by

Random Fan

a tiny little group.

Translator/Typesetter :

Auwx

Proofreader:

ennei

Edited Scans from:

Snowman+ group

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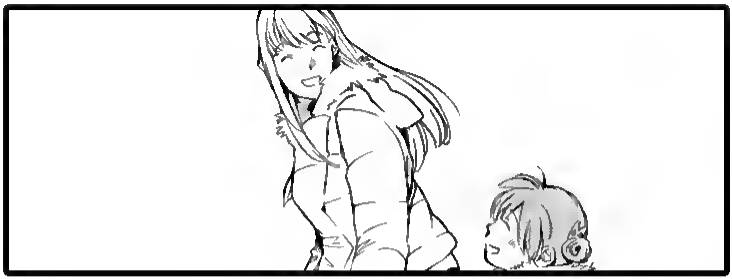
Prefer Batoto over other readers!



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TL Quality Check:	Raukcaran & SP
Cleaning:	snowman+
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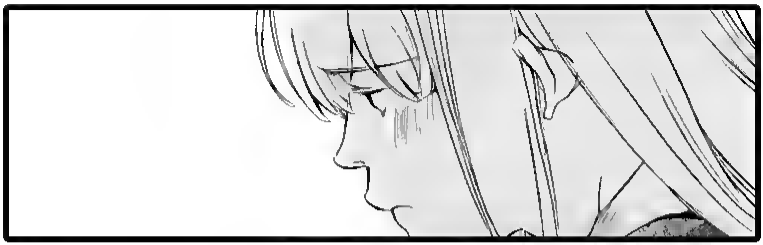

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you'd like to see scanlated, or would like to join us,
please tell us!

MY GIRL 44
Starting new project(s) soon, if you're interested please contact us on the site! Need especially Japanese translators!

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I was really glad I could take this project to the end. It was one of the first mangas I started reading, and the one that really got me into it. I'm a little sad to leave Masamune and Koharu here, but they both seem happy so it's okay.

However, lots of characters need your help so everyone can follow their adventures. If you're interested and motivated, please contact us! Scanlating is a hard, but rewarding job!